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Saturday July 18 / Sunday July 19 1987

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WORLD NEWS

Marcinkus warrant overruled

Italy's Supreme Court unexpectedly declared null and void yesterday the arrest warrants issued for Valerio Bank chairman Archiberto Paul Marcinkus and two other officials charged in connection with the 1982 Banco Ambrosiano crash.

The Court of Cassation in Rome had been expected to uphold the warrant issued by Milan magistrates. It is not yet clear if the ruling will mean Mr Marcinkus will be able to avoid being tried in absentia.

De Lorean withdrawal
The Government withdrew a grant to a company which wants to buy the former De Lorean factory in Belfast after finding a leading figure had been jailed for deception.

Poindeux 'chilling'
The testimony of Rear Admiral John Poindeux to the Iran-Contra hearings was "chilling," said co-chairman Senator Daniel Inouye, Back Page.

Baker warns schools
State schools which vote to opt out of local authority control will not be able to opt back in again, Education Secretary Kenneth Baker said, Page 4.

Air near-miss inquiry
The Civil Aviation Authority ordered an inquiry into how a British Airways jumbo jet came within 600 yards of an RAF Hercules over Carlisle.

East German amnesty
East Germany abolished the death sentence and declared an amnesty for all prisoners except Nazi war criminals, spies, murderers and those convicted of crimes against humanity.

Howard keeps post
John Howard retained the leadership of Australia's opposition Liberal Party, defeated in last week's federal election, Page 5.

Israel to review entry
Israel is to review entry procedures following US protests at alleged discrimination against black and Arab Americans at Tel Aviv airport.

Hassan home early
King Hassan of Morocco is to fly home today, ending his visit to Britain, says a royal spokesman, because of "duty back home."

Floods hit Bangladesh
Flash floods have killed at least 10 people and made 10,000 homeless in southern Bangladesh in the last three days.

Typhoon toll grows
The number of deaths confirmed after Typhoon Thelma hit South Korea rose to 77, with 162 people still missing.

Yugoslav pay rise
Over 400 Yugoslav coal miners ended a three-day strike after winning a 50 per cent pay rise.

Hopkins wins award
British actor Anthony Hopkins won the best actor award at the Moscow Film Festival for 84, Charing Cross Road. Best film was Fellini's *The Interview*.

Aide Bass dies
Stage and screen actor Albie Bass, star of the television series *Boadicea* and *Sandbag*, died of a heart attack, aged 70.

Heavy breather
An Italian hotel charged a tourist an air conditioning supplement for his wife "because two noses breathe more air than one," an Italian consumer organisation said.

MARKETS
DOLLAR
New York lunchtime: DM 1.8585
FFr 6.1895
Sfr 1.5495
Y182.7

London: DM 1.8585 (1.837)
FFr 6.1895 (6.115)
Sfr 1.5495 (1.529)
Y182.75 (180.5)

Dollar index 103.7 (102.9)
Tokyo close Y181.5

US LUNCHEON RATES
Fed Funds 8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills: yield: 5.72%
Long Bond: 10 1/2% yield: 8.34%

GOLD
New York: Comes August latest \$450.50
London: \$450.50 (453.25)
Chief price changes yesterday, Back Page

BUSINESS SUMMARY

Dollar regains ground

THE DOLLAR rose strongly yesterday, more than wiping out its losses after Thursday's news of a widening in the US trade deficit. Foreign exchange dealers were hard put to explain the recovery, which saw the US currency closing in London at DM 1.8585 against DM 1.837 on Thursday.

Sterling remained firm against the D-Mark, in spite of repeated Bank of England selling of pounds against the West German currency to keep it below DM 3. It closed at DM 2.99 against DM 2.985. However, the pound dropped against the surging dollar to close at \$1.6085 after \$1.631.

Currencies, Page 12

EQUITIES fell in London as the expected technical shake-out ended almost two weeks of consecutive gains. The FT Ordinary Index lost 9.3 to close at 1,916.9, a gain on the week of 48.1. The FT-SE Index closed down 14.7 at 2,428.7, ending the week up 46.7. Stock market, Page 12.

STOCK EXCHANGE member firms are to be penalised heavily for missing deadlines for processing paperwork on share transactions. Back Page.

HARVARD SECURITIES' application for Stock Exchange membership has been rejected by the membership committee after a year-long wait by the UK's largest institutional over-the-counter market-maker in securities. Back Page.

RONALD JENKINS was fined \$10,000 after admitting using his position as former private secretary to Lord Cawsey, chairman of the British and Commonwealth Shipping group, to help insider trading share deals. Page 4.

BUILDING SOCIETY mortgage lending fell last month for the first time this year, rising from \$2.8bn in May to \$2.5bn. Page 12.

BRITISH AIRWAYS' merger with British Caledonian faces a campaign of opposition from leading independent airlines. Back Page.

SPIDERMAN and the Incredible Hulk entered the bid arena as New World Pictures, US parent of Marvel Comics, launched a \$500m (\$306.7m) takeover offer for Kerner Parker Toys. Page 19.

CANADIAN Imperial Bank of Commerce, the country's third largest chartered bank, and Gordon Capital Corporation are to form an investment bank to compete with the emerging international giants. Page 18.

SAATCHI & SAATCHI, advertising and business services company, said its 7 per cent stake in marketing services concern WPP Group for about \$7.9m. Page 8.

BLACKS LEISURE, UK camping and leisurewear group, announced an agreed \$45m offer for women's and children's fashion company Miss Sam and \$15.2m deal for private textile converters and merchants S. Eker. Page 8.

STERLING
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Australia: 22.25, Bahrain: 0.65, Belgium: Ffr 48, Canada: C\$1.00, Cyprus: C\$2.75, Denmark: Dkr 5.00, Egypt: E£2.25, Finland: Fmk 7.00, France: Ffr 6.50, Germany: DM 2.25, Greece: Dr 100, Hong Kong: HK\$12, India: Rupee 15, Indonesia: Rp 3,100, Israel: NIS 2.50, Italy: Lit 1,300, Japan: Yen 160, Korea: Won 100, Lebanon: L£100, Luxembourg: Lfr 48, Malaysia: RM 4.25, Mexico: Pes 200, Morocco: Dir 6.00, Netherlands: Gld 3.00, Norway: Nkr 7.00, Philippines: Pso 25, Portugal: Esc 100, S. Arabia: Rial 25, Singapore: S\$1.00, Spain: Ptas 165, Sri Lanka: Ls 20, Sweden: Sfr 8.00, Switzerland: Sfr 220, Taiwan: NT\$100, Tunisia: Dtn 10.00, Turkey: Lira 1.00, UAE: Dir 6.50, USA: \$1.00, Bermuda: B\$1.00.

Thatcher declares absolute faith in President Reagan

MRS THATCHER declared yesterday that she had absolute faith in President Ronald Reagan and scolded those who believe his presidency has been irreparably damaged by the Iran-Contra scandal, writes Lionel Barber.

"I believe he's a great leader," the Prime Minister said on US breakfast television as she began a 12-hour sweep through Washington, meeting President Reagan, senior cabinet members, Congressional leaders and the present and future chairmen of the Federal Reserve Board, the central bank.

Mrs Thatcher's trip follows her election victory last month, when she won her third consecutive term in office. As she bustled in and out of meetings,

some US commentators speculated that her political magic might rub off on Mr Reagan, her old conservative friend and ally. Mrs Thatcher arrived in Washington today on a rescue mission, declared CBS news. The Prime Minister was soon carried away with the welcome. "America is the flagship of freedom... She must sail into the sunset and not look back at what may or may not have happened."

The Iran-Contra hearings, thanks to Lt Col Oliver North, have distracted the US public and the Reagan Administration for six months. However, Mrs Thatcher was yesterday determined to drive home the message that other issues—arms control, the Middle East, the federal budget deficit—

were far more important. Turning to the prospects for a superpower agreement to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe, Mrs Thatcher said Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, needed a deal if he was to continue doing the "remarkable historic things" he was doing in liberalising and reconstructing Soviet economic policies. Mrs Thatcher spent almost 10 hours with Mr Gorbachev in Moscow earlier this year and she was expected to share her thoughts with President Reagan yesterday. Before the White House meeting, she played down US fears that the Soviets might be stalling on an arms pact because of the Iran-Contra affair.

"I would not say they are dragging their feet but there may be a bit of brinkmanship," Some European diplomats said that the Reagan Administration might offer more concessions to the Soviets in order to strike a deal before the 1988 election campaign dominated the US political agenda. Mrs Thatcher made it clear she would oppose concessions and repeated she favoured a global elimination of intermediate-range nuclear forces rather than the Soviet proposal under which Washington and Moscow would each retain 100 medium-range nuclear warheads.

In her talks with Vice President George Bush—a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination next year—Mrs Thatcher pressed for a

Middle East peace conference, continued support for the Mozambique Government—under pressure from Republican conservatives who want to back the Renamo guerrillas—and opposition to sanctions against South Africa.

US officials, while lukewarm on the idea of a Middle East conference, were struck as usual by Mrs Thatcher's boundless energy, even if her assessment of President Reagan defies political gravity. She may be up, but Mr Reagan is definitely down.

Mrs Thatcher's next stop is Jamaica, where the West Indian island and Commonwealth member celebrates its 25th anniversary of independence. She returns home to London on Sunday.

Though there was some doubt about the authenticity of the message, since the group normally delivers its communications in written form, mounting tension between Iran and France has undoubtedly raised concern over the possibility of a French national held captive in Lebanon, as well as those still in Tehran.

Yesterday's break pre-empted an ultimatum delivered the previous day by Iran, which warned that it would break off relations if the police cordon around its Paris embassy were not removed by Sunday morning.

After receiving the ultimatum, France had reinforced the police watching Iran's embassy and had turned back 13 members of the Iranian embassy who tried to leave the country by aircraft or by car over the border with Switzerland.

Foreign Ministry officials said the decision to prevent Iranian diplomats from leaving the country had been taken after Iran had arbitrarily blocked the exit of two members of the French embassy in Tehran.

Mr Pierre Laffrance, the French chargé in Tehran, has made contact with the Iranian authorities to try to negotiate the evacuation of both embassies' staffs.

French officials made clear, however, that the police still want to interview Mr Wahid Gerdji, the Iranian interpreter who has taken refuge in his embassy and whose refusal to give himself up for questioning sparked off the crisis between the two countries.

They said there could be no question of allowing Mr Gerdji to leave with the other members of the Iranian embassy until he had answered questions about his links with the suspected Iranian agent.

Continued on Back Page

France severs ties with Iran

BY GEORGE GRAHAM IN PARIS

FRANCE AND Iran broke off diplomatic relations yesterday, leaving the French embassy in Tehran and the Iranian embassy in Paris under virtual siege. Only the charges d'affaires were allowed to leave, and diplomats and their families were unable to fly home.

France made the first move to sever ties. Its announcement yesterday morning was followed by a death threat against two French diplomats being held hostage in Lebanon.

The French decision, which Iran reciprocated later in the day, marks the formal end of attempts to "normalise" relations with Iran initiated by Mr Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, when his right-wing government was elected in March last year. France will be the second big western country after the US to maintain no diplomatic representation in Tehran.

The row follows a sharp downgrading of ties between Iran and Britain last month to one diplomat in each capital, and reductions in the missions of Italy and West Germany in the past year.

It also coincides with efforts to pass a resolution in the United Nations Security Council next week calling for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, and means that Iran will be less likely to heed such a call. Foreign ministers from the US and several European countries, including Britain, West Germany and Italy, are expected in New York for the Security Council debate on Monday.

Shortly after the announcement in Paris, an anonymous telephone caller told Western news agencies in Beirut that a Lebanese extremist group known as Islamic Jihad would execute Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, two French diplomats kidnapped there two years ago. Islamic Jihad is believed to be linked to Iran.

Construction work is expected to start within a few months and last up to seven years, half the original estimate. Some of it, but not necessarily all, will be undertaken by the contractors first chosen for the project—Taylor Woodrow, Costain, Laing, John Mowlem and Sir Robert McAlpine, with Bechtel as manager.

Olympia is retaining the broad plan for Canary Wharf drawn up by Skidmore Owings and Merrill, the architects, but will probably have an architectural competition for the individual buildings, the controversial idea of three large towers dominating the eastern London skyline, will be retained.

Time runs out, Page 4

TSB's £282m bid for Hogg rejected

BY HUGO DIXON AND NICK BUNKER

TSB, the financial services group, yesterday launched a hostile £282m bid for Hogg Robinson, the insurance-broker and travel agency group. Hogg rejected the offer as inadequate and unacceptable. The bid was at the centre of a complex series of deals in which another key player is Mr Robert Holmes & Court, the Australian financier.

TSB plans to sell Hogg's insurance-broker arm for £118m to Dewey Warren, a small re-insurance broker. Dewey Warren is 42 per cent owned by Bell Group International, Mr Holmes & Court's investment vehicle.

The Hogg deal is TSB's second major bid within a month. Last month it made a £227m agreed bid for Target, the life-assurance and unit-trust group. TSB is flush with cash following its £1.5bn flotation last September.

Mr David Thorne, TSB's managing director, said the prize of Hogg was worth a fight.

TSB wants Hogg's travel and estate-agency networks, concentrated in London and the south of England. It plans to use them to cross-sell financial services and to compensate for the weakness of its banking network in the south.

The bid's fate hinges on shareholders' reception of Hogg's plans, announced two weeks ago, to demerge into separate Stock Exchange-listed companies—Hogg Robinson and Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain. TSB's offer is conditional on shareholders rejecting the demerger proposal.

The demerger plan aims to free each side of Hogg's business to grow at its own pace. Shareholders are due to vote on the scheme at an extraordinary meeting on July 27. Hogg last night urged them to vote in favour.

The new Hogg Robinson, valued by Hogg at £121.7m, would comprise everything except the insurance-brokerage business.

Canary Wharf deal near

BY PAUL CHEESNIGHT, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

OLYMPIA & YORK, the privately-owned Canadian property and resource group, has bought into the Canary Wharf Development Company, the shareholders of which were the international banks Credit Suisse First Boston, Morgan Stanley International and First Boston, and Travelstead Group, a US property developer.

It is thought to have paid about £70m to compensate the consortium members for the costs they have incurred on the project. Half of this would have been spent on planning and preparatory site work, the other half on land purchases to create a site of 71 acres. The consortium paid an average of £2m an acre.

The international banks are keeping a minor interest in the Canary Wharf project, but the exact stakes are not being disclosed—but Olympia is taking complete financial responsibility for bringing the project to completion. It is not planning to change its role.

Although Credit Suisse First Boston and Morgan Stanley intend to take premises at Canary Wharf, their reluctance to shoulder basic development costs delayed construction. The arrival of Olympia and the planned signing last night

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Guinness wins fight for £5.2m

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

GUINNESS has won a High Court fight to recover £5.2m it paid to Mr Thomas Ward, a US attorney and former director.

Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, the Vice-Chancellor, said yesterday that the payment, which Mr Ward asserted had been made for his "valuable services" to Guinness during the takeover battle for Distillers, had not been disclosed to the full board as required by the company's articles and the Companies Act.

The £5.2m had at all times been Guinness's property and the company was entitled to its immediate final judgement on its recovery claim, the judge said.

He said Guinness's right to judgment was not affected by the fact that Mr Ward might be entitled to some remuneration for his services under his cross-claim, which will come before the court later unless disposed of by negotiation.

He ordered the immediate transfer to Guinness of the £2,013,761 unpaid balance of the £5.2m. Mr Ward's rights in £10,000 loan and £320,000 investment made out of the £5.2m, and his right to recover £4.7m of the £5.2m paid in US federal and state taxes.

After the ruling, Guinness's lawyers said that when the available part of the £5.2m had been gathered in, Mr Ward would still owe about £1m. There was a shortfall of about £500,000 and interest of about the same amount on the £5.2m.

In addition, Mr Ward had to pay Guinness's legal costs. The judge gave Mr Ward leave to appeal.

Sir Nicholas said that Mr Ward alleged that the £5.2m had been paid under an agreement between himself and Mr Ernest Saunders, Guinness's former chairman and chief executive. Guinness denied there had been such an agreement. If there had, the company argued, it had been made by Mr Ward in breach of his fiduciary duty because it had not been disclosed to the other directors.

The judge said that the way Mr Ward's case had been put was only consistent with an implied admission that there had been no disclosure.

In addition, the judge ordered Continued on Back Page

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WEEKEND FT



RICHEST COUNTRY IN CHINA

Together, Hong Kong and the Pearl River delta should be able to give South Korea and Taiwan a run for their money. David Dodwell reports from Changping.

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PROPERTY

The word "luxury" is in danger of becoming meaningless. John Brennan calls estate agents to order.

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TRAVEL

Michael J. Woods tours England's offshore nature reserves.

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DIVERSIONS

How To Spend It: Lucia van Post on picture framing, Plus Wine, Gardening, Sale-room and Collecting.

Pages XII and XIII

THE ARTS

Anthony Curtis on Harold Pinter at the Avignon festival.

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SPORT

Ben Wright at the Open Golf Championship, Muirfield; plus croquet.

Page XVI

Two year performance.

Trust	Percentage increase in value	Position in sector
Worldwide Recovery	+168.6	2nd
Income & Growth	+151.6	3rd
UK	+141.2	48th
Pacific	+120.0	14th
International	+111.1	13th
Practical	+108.3	1st
European	+105.2	16th
Japan	+104.6	31st
High Income	+76.9	15th
American	+23.4	46th

Figure: Two years to 13.7.27. Source: Oriel, offered to, not known otherwise.

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UK NEWS

Owen conciliatory over Alliance merger dispute

BY JOHN HUNT, PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

DR DAVID OWEN, leader of the Social Democratic Party, last night made a conciliatory gesture to his opponents in the party who want a merger with the Liberals.

He promised that if those in favour of a merger were to win the ballot, he and his supporters would not attempt to block negotiations for a merger. If some SDP members joined the Liberals, he would welcome that readjustment and continue to work with them as friends and colleagues.

He emphasised that he and his supporters would still want to work closely with the Liberals if there were no merger between the two parties.

His statement was seen as an attempt to reassure those Social Democrats who fear that if the parties do not merge, the alternative will be complete separation.

"There is no way we are going to bust or smash the existing working partnership of Social Democrats and Liberals up and down the country," he said. "It is nonsense to pretend has brought us both success in



Owen would not block merger talks if vote lost.

many parts of the country."

Social Democrats who joined the Liberals would still be listened to with respect. They would "still be working with us in the future."

"People will and should

remain good friends, even if it is all or nothing.

"We have absolutely no intention whatever of breaking up a political partnership that they take a diametrically opposed view about what is best for our party and for the future shape of British politics."

If the majority of the SDP voted against merger, it would be clear that there would have to be a different relationship with the Liberals.

However if those who favoured a merger won, he hoped they would not attempt to "bust or smash" constructive working relationships between the two parties. Nor should they pursue merger by the back door, by destroying the identity of the SDP through pressure for joint selection of candidates.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, has made clear that as far as he is concerned merger is the only way forward and if it is rejected, the Alliance cannot continue in its present form.

Insider share dealer fined £10,000

MR RONALD JENKINS, a 54-year-old former private secretary to Lord Cawsey, chairman of the British and Commonwealth Shipping group, was yesterday fined £10,000 after admitting using his position to carry out two insider trading share deals worth thousands of pounds.

Mr Jenkins, formerly of Hainault Road, Chigwell, Essex, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to two charges brought under the 1985 Companies Securities (Insider Trading) Act. He was also ordered to pay prosecution costs of £2,000.

Sir James Harkin, QC, Recorder of London, said Jenkins had never before been in any sort of trouble and it would not be appropriate to sentence him to prison, as he was in his 50s and had very little chance of obtaining a similar job.

At the time of his offences, he had been under financial pressure and worried about the welfare of his aged mother.

The Recorder added: "The City of London is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, financial centres in the world and for many years had enjoyed an unstained and worldwide reputation of total honesty."

However, in the last few years, more than a handful of people had indulged in various forms of dishonesty.

Mr Timothy Nash, prosecuting, told the court Jenkins had been plainly in possession of confidential information while private secretary to Lord Cawsey.

"Armed with information there was going to be a senior management shake-up at British and Commonwealth, he purchased 7,500 shares in the company, selling them later at a profit of a cool £4,000."

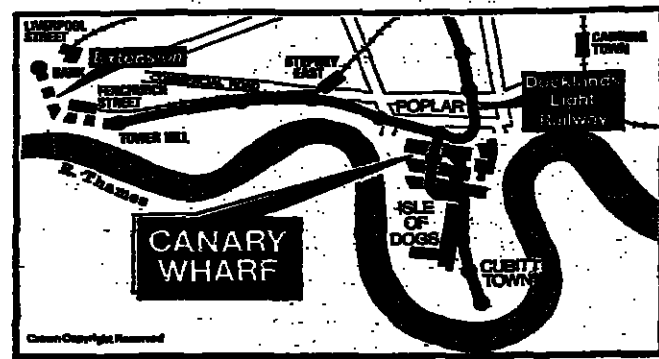
A month later, he had used privileged knowledge he was given in confidence to try to buy 2,500 shares in Steel Brothers Holdings. Had that transaction not been cancelled, it would have netted Jenkins an immediate £1,500.

Paul Cheeseright explains why control of Docklands project changed Time runs out at Canary Wharf

TIME RAN out for G. Ware Travelstead. The American who pieced together the Canary Wharf project, the biggest planned commercial property development in Europe, could not command the resources to bring the scheme to completion.

Those dependent on him lost patience. Once faith in his ability to take the project from the planning to the execution phase began to slip, the gates opened for Olympia and York, which yesterday took over the scheme on roughly the same terms it had offered in February.

The stakes are high. Total cost of the project on derelict land in London's Docklands, east of the City, is about £3bn. The first phase would cost about



be corporate headquarters not backroom facilities.

Whether the office space is pre-let or not makes no difference. The project goes ahead, Mr Cheeseright made clear. "We can complete on our own strength," he added. In reference to the financing.

The difficulty for Mr Travelstead was that he did not have such strength. He found himself caught in a vicious circle.

The Canary Wharf Development Company, of which he was chairman, did not want to sign the master building agreement with the London Docklands Development Corporation without the security of pre-lets to tenants other than the original members of the Canary Wharf consortium—Credit Suisse First Boston, Morgan Stanley International and the Travelstead Group.

However, tenants would not be forthcoming unless they saw that the basic infrastructure

work for the project was under way. That would be a sign of serious intent, that the project would happen.

The work could not start, however, until consortium members agreed among themselves on how to pay for it. That was a nettle that Credit Suisse First Boston and Morgan Stanley were not in the end prepared to grasp. Their interest in the scheme all along had not been in some grandiose reclamation of derelict land but in having a building each for their own use.

Here, then, was pressure on Mr Travelstead to get the project moving. That pressure mounted from February onwards after the first talks with Olympia and York. The only way to get the project moving, given that Mr Travelstead could not or would not, with First Boston take on the infrastructure costs, was to call in another company.

There was also pressure from another quarter, the London Docklands Development Corpor-

ation. Action on Canary Wharf was essential for the corporation, which is tasked with the revitalisation of the whole district.

The project is central to the redevelopment of the Isle of Dogs. The fact that it had been planned acted as a stimulus for other commercial development but the Canary Wharf site remained empty, a hole in the middle of the Dogs doughnut.

From the end of last year Mr Travelstead was always on the verge of signing the master building agreement, but pens remained firmly in pockets. During the past two months, the LDDC became progressively more edgy about the lack of

The project is central to the redevelopment of the Isle of Dogs

action, especially with contractors waiting on the signing of the agreement to start work on the extension to the Docklands Light Railway, the essential communications link to the City.

That diminishing patience was conveyed to Mr Travelstead by the pressure he was under from the bankers. One lot he might have contained — two became impossible. His role had been played.

The quiet Canadians move in with money

OLYMPIA & YORK is very big and very private, writes Paul Cheeseright. Nobody outside knows how wealthy it is, but all can see that it is. The company, which has raised funds, estimates of its assets run up to more than \$20bn (£12.4bn).

What is certain is that the company is the biggest commercial landlord in New York with 24m sq ft. It has prime office properties in the main US and Canadian centres, and if its share in Trizec Corporation is taken into account, it owns or has interests in about 100m sq ft of property.

In that context Canary Wharf does not look large. However, it is about 20 per

cent larger in plan than the completed World Financial Centre at Battery Park, New York. The Olympia & York team that built Battery Park, before the First Canadian Place in Toronto, will be the nucleus of the Canary Wharf development team.

Property is only one part of the empire created by the brothers. Reichmann, brother since they arrived in Canada in 1955. The genesis was a building materials company, specialising in ceramic tiles. They also control Albitri, the Canadian wood company, and last year bought Gulf Canada for \$33bn (£14bn) to win a stake in the oil business.

There is at least one Reichmann brother involved in every significant Olympia & York project so that, in spite of being one of the big four Canadian corporations, the company retains something of the quality of a family business.

Mr Paul Reichmann, at 55 the second oldest of the brothers, is head of the company point that every project it has announced has always been finished and he thinks the construction time for Canary Wharf can be cut to between five and seven years from 10 to 15 years.

The key to the Reichmann success has been boldness. To bring Merrill Lynch and

American Express to Battery Park, Olympia & York bought their existing headquarters buildings. The company would be prepared to do the same in London.

It is taking on all the commitments for Canary Wharf on the basis of two assumptions.

The first is that London has room for another big office centre as well as the City and the West End. The second is that leading corporations will find it more convenient to group all their operations in one building on Canary Wharf than to have them scattered over the more expensive areas.

Schools may not change minds

BY HONA THOMPSON

STATE SCHOOLS that vote to opt out of local authority control cannot change their minds and opt back in again, Mr Kenneth Baker, Education Secretary, said yesterday.

"Opting out is a once-and-for-all choice. Once a borough becomes an education authority it will have to remain one. It would be ridiculous to allow Mr Baker said in Lancaster at the Council of Local Education Authorities meeting.

That would also be the case for schools in inner London, where the boroughs are to be given powers to take their schools out of the Labour-controlled Inner London Education Authority.

Outlining details of the Government's education reform plans due to be announced next week, Mr Baker told the local authority education chiefs that he wanted to strengthen the partnership between local and national government.

The conference rejected his olive branch, however, and endorsed motions critical of government plans for a national curriculum with pupils tested at seven, 11 and 14.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's new education spokesman, accused Mr Baker of "back-peddalling furiously" because of growing concern about his proposals for reform.

"His plans for opt-out schools, conceived as they were on the back of an envelope as an election gimmick, are now falling apart at the seams. Scotland, he said, was where, "If Mr Baker wants partnership he must in return offer real consultation with heads, local authorities, parents and teachers. He must accept that his plans are widely unpopular and can only damage that most important group of all, the children."

In response to the Education Secretary's speech, Mr Fred Jarvis, National Union of

Teachers general secretary, said: "As usual Mr Baker showed no recognition of the crucial importance of resources and he made no commitment to restore teachers' negotiating rights. Instead he smoothly sought the co-operation of the local education authorities and their support for policies that will result in their demerit, at best, make them marginal."

Mr Baker's policies and actions were divisive. They would bring back selection and fee-paying. They were bogus and would lead to greater parental choice.

"Once again we have experienced a Baker move-screen. He has ignored a desperate need for more resources," said Mr Jarvis.

Earlier, Mr Baker told conference delegates that a new body, to be known as the National Curriculum Council, is to be set up to develop the National Curriculum.

Rail passenger subsidy raised by £89m

By Kevin Brown, Transport Correspondent

SUBSIDIES to British Rail's loss-making passenger services will go up by £89m next year in spite of plans for a 25 per cent cut in grants over the next three years, the Government announced yesterday.

Mr Paul Channon, the Transport Secretary, told the Commons in a written reply that the Public Service Obligation grant for 1987-88 would be £890m, compared with £720m last year.

British Rail said, however, that the grant would have fallen to £685m but for a provision of £114m for investment and special depreciation.

Neither BR nor the Transport Department would provide a breakdown of the figures. British Rail said the investment would however reduce future PSO requirements by improving productivity.

The Department of Transport said the allowance for additional depreciation charge was intended to help bridge the gap between BR's historic cost depreciation charge and the actual cost of its investment programme.

The PSO grant covers losses on BR's InterCity, Network South-East and Provincial sectors, and is intended to underwrite the social importance of passenger services.

The grant has been cut by £280m over the last three years, and fell by £110m in the last year alone, when the British Railways Board made a profit of £24m. The Government announced revised quality standards for BR yesterday. The main change is in the punctuality target for InterCity, which has consistently failed to meet its objectives. InterCity was required to run 82 per cent of trains on time or up to five minutes late. This has been changed to 90 per cent of trains up to 10 minutes late, which BR expects to find an easier target.

Nimbus to use digital tape

BY DAVID THOMAS

NIMBUS RECORDS, a UK music company, has become the first music company in the West to say it intends to make its music available on a revolutionary Japanese sound system.

Nimbus, a private company based in Moomouth, Gwent, specialising in classical music, intends to use its music using the new sound system before Christmas in Japan, the only market where the sound system is available.

The decision breaks the unanimity of the music industry in the West, which has been fighting the introduction of the sound system, known as digital audio tape, unless it is modified.

The system has caused a row between Japan and the music industry in the West, which

fears it will drain its copyright income because it allows almost perfect recording from a compact disc market. It says Japan accounts for about 15 per cent of its sales, which will be about £10m this year.

Mr Farmer said Nimbus was studying all the digital audio tape records available in Japan and intended to place bulk orders soon for the one it considered best. It would then record some of its own music on the tapes, in the hope, he said, to ship them back to Japan before Christmas.

It would also ask other music companies whether they wanted to do the same using its facilities.

Nimbus has about 150 customers among music companies that press their music at Nimbus's compact disc factories in South Wales.

start making compact discs in the UK in 1988, claims about 5 per cent of the world compact disc market. It says Japan accounts for about 15 per cent of its sales, which will be about £10m this year.

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Bank surprises gilts market with short-end funds

By Janet Bush

THE BANK of England yesterday surprised the UK government bond market by announcing new funding at the short end of the market which had appeared to see less interest recently than issues of longer maturities.

The Bank will issue by tender on July 22 £1bn of 8 per cent Treasury stock due to mature in 1991, payable £20 per cent at tender at a minimum tender price of 97½ per cent. The balance is payable in August 24.

Gilt-edged market participants said the low initial payment suggested the Bank of England was not worried about pushing its funding programme along.

In spite of substantial intervention against sterling recently which, because it counts as negative funding, has left the public sector borrowing requirements underfunded, the borrowing this year have been excellent. There is a widespread view the PSBR will undershoot the government's target.

The authorities face a dilemma. They aim to sterilise the monetary intervention through extra gilt sales. However, overseas buying of gilts when the Bank is already buying sterling's strength against the dollar might put even more upward pressure on the currency, provoking more intervention.

Scots assembly 'irrelevant', Howe says

BY JAMES BUXTON, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

A SCOTTISH ASSEMBLY with tax-raising powers was "utterly irrelevant to Scotland's needs," Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

In a defence of the Government's policies towards Scotland, he said it was vital for the country to be fully represented and to have influence at Westminster, where it was where, "like it or not," the decisions that affected Scotland were really taken.

Even some Conservatives, he said, as well as opposition parties and much of the Scottish press, "seemed beguiled by the nostrum of an assembly" which

less than a third of Scotland wanted when it was put to a referendum in 1979. The Scottish CBI, a notable exception, opposed the idea on the grounds that it would drive out investment.

"We all like to feel that we control our own destiny. But there is a sharp distinction between the realities and the trappings of power in the modern, interdependent world," he said.

Sir Geoffrey, who was speaking to Conservatives at Drymen in Strathgordon, said that Scottish Tories were right to keep their nerve in the wake of the

general election in which they lost 11 of their 21 parliamentary seats.

"But we obviously have to sell our programme better," he said. "We must show that we have heard what people are saying in their votes. But we must not cancel or change the direction of our policies."

The Government had to recognise that many Scots felt they had not yet shared fully in the economic recovery. "There is no law of economics which says that the new jobs, new service industries and technologies will all be in the south of England."

Minister defends police complaints body after attack

By Tom Lynch

THE DELAY in identifying and prosecuting the five London policemen killed in an attack on five youths does not imply failure on the part of the Police Complaints Authority, Mr Douglas Hogg, a junior Home Office minister, told the Commons yesterday.

The attack on the youths in August 1985, which left three officers being jailed this week for assault and two for failing to report the assault, was raised by several MPs during a debate on policing in inner cities.

Mr Chris Smith, Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, called for a fully independent police complaints body with its own investigative staff instead of having to rely on the police to carry out inquiries.

He said the complaints authority had investigated the assault case for two and a half years and produced a report concluding that the officers involved could not be identified. It was only the public outcry that followed the report that brought the culprits into the open.

He argued that, unless the procedure was changed, people would question the thoroughness of an investigation and whether account was taken of the police culture of closing ranks when in trouble.

Mr Hogg insisted that the "cover-up" that had caused the delay in identifying the assaulters had been caused by the officers involved in the attack or who knew about it. There was no criticism of the officers involved in investigating the case or the complaints authority, "which I regard as a most efficient and independent investigatory body."

However, he said: "That there may be lessons to be learned, I cannot deny, and we will be seeking to do that."

Kaufman says Labour must appeal to affluent

BY JOHN HUNT

THE Labour Party must change its policies to appeal to affluent voters, Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow Foreign Secretary, said last night in a broad-ranging speech on the party's future.

He implied that Labour should move away from policies which involve a big rise in public spending and increases in taxation.

The speech, delivered in Carlisle, was made with the knowledge and approval of Mr Neil Kinnock and is in line with the party leader's campaign to reform Labour policy.

In a passage that will upset the hard left, Mr Kaufman, who is on the centre right, dismissed the theory that the party could gain power on the combined support of minority groups. He said it must win voters from the other parties to gain power to help the disadvantaged.

At the same time he emphasised that it was no good trying to adopt Conservative policies.

That would only enable the Tories to outflank Labour by constantly outbidding it.

To prevent this, Labour must sell its programme better, he said. "We must show that we have heard what people are saying in their votes. But we must not cancel or change the direction of our policies."

The Government had to recognise that many Scots felt they had not yet shared fully in the economic recovery. "There is no law of economics which says that the new jobs, new service industries and technologies will all be in the south of England."

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Law Society appoints top union official

BY DAVID BRINDLE, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, has appointed a senior trade union official as its director of services and standards in what will be seen as a move to toughen its profile.

Mr John Randall, deputy general secretary of the Civil Service Union, will join the society in September and take responsibility for training and regulatory functions including issues arising from the Financial Markets Act.

The appointment follows the restructuring of the society into five broad directorates. It reflects a deliberate policy of seeking fresh talent. Mr Randall is a qualified solicitor and was headhunted for the post.

Mr John Hayes, society secretary general, said yesterday that the quality of legal services and standards in the legal profession was a matter of public interest and the society had to ensure that it was able to present issues forcefully outside the legal profession.

The society faces fresh challenges on several fronts, ranging from the act's implications for investment business to a perceived need to improve career prospects for the growing number of women solicitors.

Mr Randall, 39, has specialised in training issues during his 12 years with the CSU. He joined the union from the National Union of Students where he was president for two

one-year terms between 1973 and 1975.

He said yesterday: "I think the society is in a position where it needs to represent its interests in a public sense a little more sharply."

Mr Randall is expected to have a salary of about £35,000. He will join Mr Penny Grant, at present legal officer for Wales, the white-collar union, who has been recruited by the society to head its practice development and remuneration team. She will negotiate solicitors' Legal Aid fees.

Mr Hayes said he expected professional associations to look increasingly to the unions for key staff appointments.

Sales of Sun newspaper fall

By Raymond Soody

CIRCULATION of the Sun newspaper fell below 4m for the first time since 1981 in the six months to June as Daily Mirror sales continued to rise.

The Sun sales were an average 3,989m copies, compared with 4,041m for the corresponding period last year, according to Audit Bureau of Circulations figures issued yesterday. In the same period the Mirror's circulation rose from 3,048m copies to 3,122m.

At the quality end of the market The Independent's average sales rose to 222,703, continuing a rising trend. Sales last month were 227,122 copies. Circulation of the Financial Times rose again, to 279,762, compared with 251,554. Sales last month topped 300,000 for the first time.

The main gainers in the Sunday market were the Mail on Sunday, with a record circulation of 1,683m, and the Sunday Telegraph, which rose from 678,233 to 720,902.

Appeal Court explains contempt ruling over Spycatcher book

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

NEWSPAPERS publishing extracts from Spycatcher, the memoirs of Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer, could be held to be guilty of contempt of court if it were proved that they intended to "impede or prejudice the administration of justice," the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, said that the court had made injunctions banning The Guardian and Observer from publishing information derived from Mr Wright. Sir Nicholas said that contempt proceedings were not appropriate against someone against whom no court order had been made.

The case will now go back

to the Vice-Chancellor for a ruling on whether, in the light of yesterday's Appeal Court guidelines, The Independent, The Times, the Evening Standard and The London Daily News were in contempt.

The appeal judges refused the newspapers leave to challenge their decision in the House of Lords, saying that they must seek leave from the Law Lords. The case on which the Vice-Chancellor, when the two newspapers will argue that circumstances have so changed since the injunctions were granted in July 1986 that they are no longer justified.

The papers are likely to make great play of the fact that Spycatcher has been published in the US and many copies brought into the UK, while the Government making no attempt to stop either the publication or importation.

Linked with that hearing will be the Attorney-General's contempt claim against The Sunday Times, which last Sunday published four pages of extracts from Spycatcher. On Thursday The Sunday Times submitted to an injunction stopping it printing further extracts tomorrow.

Sir John emphasised that the contempt case was not primarily about national security or official secrets, but the right of private citizens, and public authorities to obtain protection

from the courts for their confidential information. The national security element was peripheral, Sir John said.

It was the inherently pernicious nature of confidential information that gave rise to unique problems. If, pending a full trial, the court allowed publication, there was no point having a trial since the cloak of confidentiality could never be restored.

Summarising the legal position Sir John said:

- Confidential information was irretrievably damaged by every publication, and the more widespread the publication the greater the damage.
- Opposing claims for confidentiality and a right to publish had to be balanced by

the courts and, pending full trial, the balance would normally come down in favour of preserving confidentiality.

- Third parties who knew that there were court orders protecting confidentiality committed a serious offence against justice if they took action that would damage or destroy the confidentiality the court was seeking to protect, and so rendered the due process of law ineffectual.
- Third parties wishing to contest the court's decision, or who doubted if the action they contemplated was lawful, should apply to the court.

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The hazardous joys of growth

THERE IS no great mystery about the sustained growth in employment in the UK. Everything else is growing too. The production industries are now raising their output at an annual rate of more than 1 per cent, with manufacturing growth at 5.7 per cent. Against these figures the rise in employment, at just over one per cent, is remarkably modest.

The British productivity "miracle" (if slowly catching up with continental Europe counts as a miracle) is clearly continuing.

What is more surprising, on the face of it, is that both the Chancellor and the financial markets continue to inspect these encouraging numbers with the closest suspicion. The Chancellor complains that wages are rising excessively; the City, observing that unit costs are rising at less than 1 per cent a year, is not too worried about this.

Financial analysts are, on the other hand, worried about the rising costs of other inputs, and the possibility that industry is nearing the limits of plant capacity. There are warnings of inflation to come. The Chancellor is inclined to brush these particular worries aside.

The Chancellor's strictures on pay are very familiar by now, but are they justified? Mr Lawson's statement that wages are rising at "three times the rate required to maintain real incomes" sounds striking, but does not actually mean anything. The rise in earnings is three times as big as the rise in the tax-price index, which does not tell us whether it is sustainable or not.

Catching up
 The rise in unit costs does suggest that wage increases are being a little overdone. However, there is nothing to suggest that current earnings increases would be worrying if the rise in productivity could be sustained at its recent remarkable rate.

At bottom, then, the Chancellor's worry is the same as the City's: both believe that the underlying growth rate is well below recent levels. We are essentially catching up with the growth rate of 1985, when output and productivity increases were low and unit costs were rising very fast. Recent growth and unit cost figures are too good to last.

The history of the whole recovery of the 1980s presents a remarkably consistent picture of earnings rising about twice as fast as productivity. This would suggest a steady loss of competitiveness; but here, as the Chancellor points out, the facts are much more encouraging. Britain's share of world

export markets stopped falling some time ago, and may now even be rising.

This contrast may explain why the country seems able to live quite prosperously with "excessive" wage increases. The bulk of our export trade is done by quite a small number of predominantly multinational companies, and many of these companies are achieving far above average increases in output. Car production, for example, has risen no less than 20 per cent in the past year.

These dynamic companies can afford to set a pace in wages which is not matched by productivity in the rest of the economy. For that reason inflation is indeed likely to persist; and may even rise a little; but exports may remain fully competitive, or even increasingly so, as output grows.

This picture would change very suddenly, though, if industry were soon to run into a buffer of plant capacity. This is the fear not only of some City analysts, but of the NEDO forecasters and the Labour critics of government policy. The evidence suggests that there are some potential capacity problems, but of a very special kind.

Reserve waiting
 While half the CBI membership still reports that it is working well below capacity, some shortages are beginning to appear in chemicals, steel, cement and the like. All these products are made in continuous-process plants, whose output potential is determined by engineering.

These plants tend to be very large, for reasons of technical economy, so that building a new one would add quite a noticeable percentage to total capacity. Investment decisions on this scale require a confidence about future demand which may be difficult to sustain in a world of volatile exchange rates, and acute sensitivity to the cost of capital.

In the rest of industry, though, there is a very large reserve of potential capacity which can be tapped simply by working plant for longer hours. Only one worker in eight at the moment is required to work a shift—even a double day shift. Night shifts are a tiny rarity.

The turnaround in employment growth may be telling us that while much investment is still designed to meet technical efficiency and thus labour productivity, growth is beginning to rely more on raising the productivity of all this new plant by working it longer. Capacity constraints could thus mean more employment growth, not less.

GISELA BURG believes British Telecom began to take her seriously only after she contacted journalists about her problems with Britain's privately owned, near-monopoly telephone operator.

At the start of May, her company, Exports, which exports professional audio products for small specialist UK manufacturers, was expecting a routine upgrading of the local telephone exchange in Holborn, central London. Instead, the next 10 days were a nightmare. On May 7, her phone went dead. She contacted her local BT office and was told there was nothing seriously wrong. "The consumer and technical people gave me all sorts of lame excuses," she remembers.

After three days, she faxed Sir George Jefferson, chairman of BT, asking for an explanation. There was no reply. Meanwhile customers around the world were puzzled. "Tens, if not hundreds, were telephoning to ask if we'd gone out of business," she says.

BT's attitude changed totally when she started publicising her problems. "I now get an engineer calling almost every day asking about my phone."

Not far from Ms. Burg, Joe Roeder, an oil consultant, had been suffering since about November. His callers would hear a ringing tone, but the phone did not ring at his end. Meanwhile, his phone would ring hundreds of times a day, but with no one at the other end.

"The combination was devastating. It's been a miserable six months," recalls Mr Roeder, who says BT's engineers did absolutely nothing. "They came here, faxed about, and kept changing their story about what the problem was. They didn't seem to have a system for tracing the fault."

There are many people like Ms. Burg and Mr. Roeder who grumble about BT, though not all have quite so much cause. Last year, the number of complaints reaching the Office of Telecommunications (OfTel), the industry's regulator, jumped 50 per cent (although increased public awareness of OfTel's role may explain some of the rise). Politicians and newspapers receive a steady trickle of horror story letters about BT.

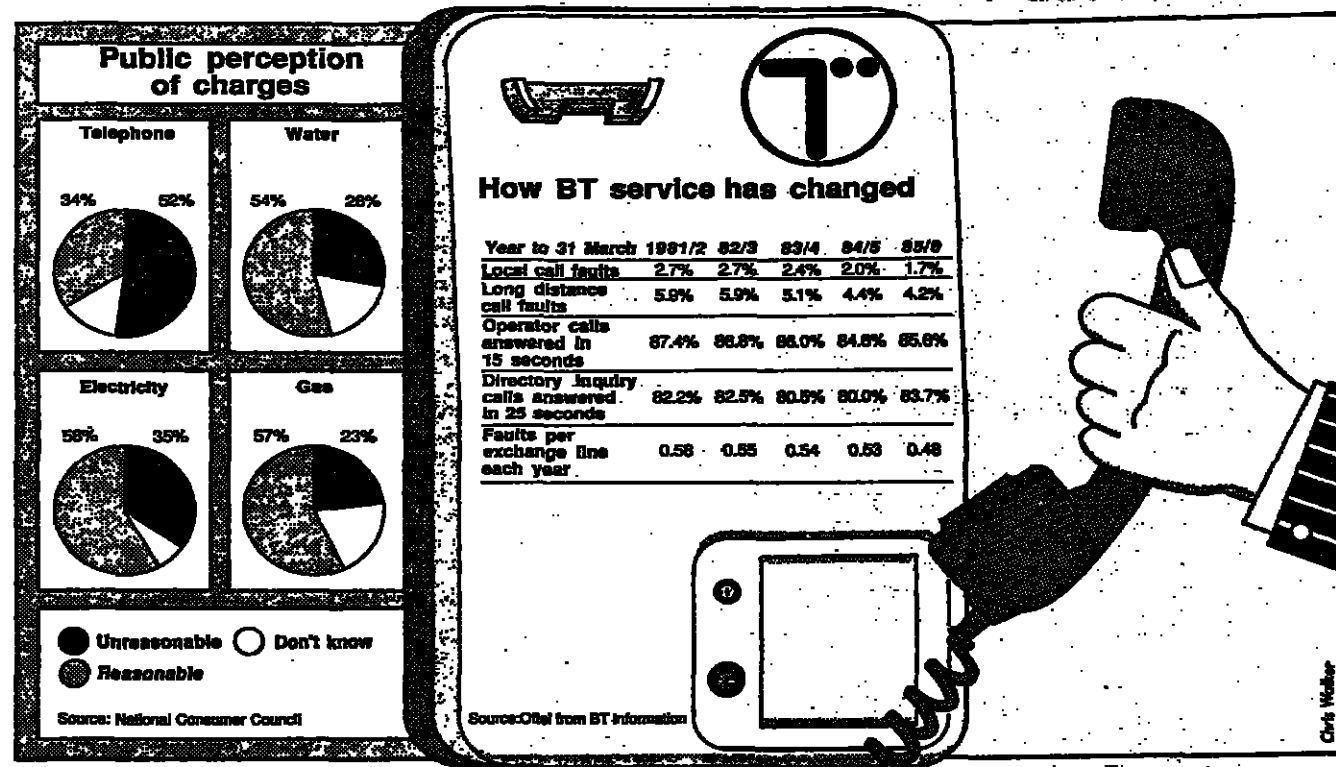
Most of these tales inevitably go unheeded. In the past three weeks however, the ranks of fed-up BT customers seem to have found a voice.

Earlier this month, the National Consumer Council released a survey of public opinion pointing to widespread dissatisfaction with BT services. And this week Professor Bryan Carsberg, director general of OfTel, voiced precise worries about, for instance, BT's failure to keep to appointment dates. Age Concern also joined in with a report claiming that "elderly and disabled consumers are worse off in every aspect of telecommunications services since BT was privatised"—a charge BT denies with particular vehemence. The Spectator, magazine of the thinking right, this week offers an old telephone box to the reader with the best horror story about BT.

Continuing failure by BT to improve its rating with customers could have a number of consequences.

It may have a profound impact on decisions on rephasing the framework of Britain's telecommunications for the 1990s.

British Telecom is the subject of fierce consumer criticism. David Thomas reports



Public pressures, private grief

It could give privatisation a bad name and affect the way other utilities, particularly the electricity industry, are sold off.

More immediately, it might alter the timing of the Government's sale of its remaining 49.5 per cent stake in BT.

But it is fair to say that BT's overall quality of service leaves much to be desired.

Iain Vallance, chief executive of BT, says he was dismayed—though not particularly surprised—by the intensity of the criticism during the past few weeks. He recognises that the roots of the complaints go deeper than irritation about crossed lines.

The way in which the dissatisfaction has been expressed is quality of service, but it is not just that. He continues: "Some people feel that profits and tariffs are too high. They have a feeling that we are still an unapproachable and uncaring company."

BT has point-by-point answers to these worries. Its rate of return is not out of line with the market, as OfTel confirmed last year. Prices for its main services have risen less rapidly than inflation. Even residential customers, who have fared less well than businesses, on average have not had to pay more to BT. "Bills of the typical domestic customer have increased in line with inflation," Professor Carsberg said recently.

BT is computerising its customer services in a bid to smooth relations between local

BT offices and the public, one of the greatest sources of irritation at present. For instance, over the next couple of years it hopes to be able to give everyone an appointment for service visits which is accurate within two hours. BT is also spending large sums on improving sensitive services: £100m on telephone boxes and £100m on computerising directory inquiries.

Yet the feeling persists, not least among some BT insiders, that the company's response to the new era of competition has been sluggish. In some areas, particularly in the value-added business services, the morass of BT bureaucracy makes it difficult to get a quick response to new proposals.

"I left because we had become embraced by the worn arm of BT corporate culture," explains one executive who recently gave up the struggle. He defines that culture as "a fear of making a decision in case you are wrong. In most commercial organisations, the fear thing people do is give you their card. In BT, people prefer to remain anonymous."

On its main network, BT is having to jettison decades of certainty that it knew best. The company is run by engineers who think everyone else is a bloody amateur. They know that the percentage fault rates are not that bad, so what is everyone complaining about?

With the attitudes ingrained in many BT workers, an explosion of anger about the company's quality of service was probably inevitable. Mr Vallance argues that three factors have made 1987 a particularly difficult year.

First, there was the strike by BT staff early in the year. BT had to cope with a backlog of new orders and repairs. "The legacy was—perhaps rather greater than we thought at the time," Mr Vallance admits.

Second, faults disrupted some new local digital exchanges—although only a few tens of the 700 installed, according to BT. The faults were due to software problems at its suppliers and inadequate preparation by BT for the task of speeding up introduction of new exchanges.

"Murphy's law being Murphy's law, a number (of the faulty exchanges) were in sensitive parts of London," Vallance says. Holborn and Euston were particularly badly hit.

Third, there were surges of demand, particularly in the City, which BT says neither it nor its customers foresaw. "We thought that demand from Big Bang might flatten out this year, but it's taken off further," says Mr Vallance. The City is still demanding 2,500 new private circuits a week.

Some relief came this week from OfTel, which released figures (shown in table) suggesting a slow improvement in BT's performance since 1981. But OfTel's Professor Carsberg damned the company with faint praise: "Our best assessment is that quality has improved, a little though perhaps not as

much as one would have wished," he said.

OfTel went on to pick out two areas for improvement: the provision of new lines and repair of faults within a specified period. Professor Carsberg is floating two ideas.

BT may be forced to accept contractual liability, including financial penalties, for failing to meet target dates for new lines or fault repairs. Another method would be to build quality of service targets into the formula governing BT's pricing arrangements. Each day's delay in offering services or repairing faults could lead to a cut in the revenue BT is allowed to raise.

Imposing a financial penalty on BT for poor service is precisely the sort of demand that aggrieved customers like Ms. Burg and Mr. Roeder want to make. But BT is not surprisingly unenthusiastic about these proposals.

Mr Vallance thinks they may be impractical, how could they? But realistic delivery dates be set down for the City, when everyone, including customers, have vastly underestimated demand? Such a penalty could, moreover, hand a weapon to BT's unions—a goal which would immediately hit the company's revenues.

BT's failure to make up its mind about another of OfTel's suggestions—that the company should publish performance targets, and actions taken to meet them—also sending the wrong signals.

Mr Vallance is confident BT

will have climbed out of its present trough by April next year, the earliest that the Government could sell its remaining shareholding.

However, the company does not expect to meet its broader target—to offer customers a service second to none in the world—until 1990. Only then will the modernisation of its network be substantially complete.

By then however, the key decisions on BT's regulatory framework will probably have been taken. The Government is due to decide in 1989 whether to allow businesses to act almost as sub-contractors, leasing lines from BT and re-selling them for voice traffic. It will also decide whether to break up the duopoly of BT and Mercury Communications in 1990.

Professor Carsberg, speaking to MPs this month, hinted that he expected the resale of lines to go ahead, but was more circumspect about whether the duopoly would be broken.

By then, steam might have built up behind the demand for BT's grip on the UK telecommunications market to be weakened further. The trick will be to avoid making Mercury, BT's leading rival, the main beneficiary of extra competition.

The competition faced by BT remains extremely patchy. The company has reacted most aggressively in those areas where it has faced the greatest challenge—the supply of equipment, one of the earliest areas liberalised; and the growth in demand following Big Bang, one of Mercury's target areas.

Mercury has so far put most of its energies into chasing customers in the City and among large companies. But it has also launched services for residential and small business customers, although BT is bound to remain dominant at this end of the market for the foreseeable future.

Even in those areas where further competition is likely, effective regulation of BT will be needed for some time. Call-boxes are an example.

OfTel believes that BT has been trying to improve its call-boxes: modernising them and—contrary to worries expressed when it was privatised—increasing their number.

But Professor Carsberg also says: "I still have to satisfy myself that repairs are made as quickly as possible and that steps are taken to identify promptly call-boxes that are out of use."

OfTel is considering removing BT's monopoly over privately rented call-boxes—those found in hotels and restaurants. But even if this monopoly is taken away it would probably be years before BT's overwhelming position was eroded.

Moreover, OfTel is hesitant about removing BT's monopoly over public telephone boxes because of the desirability of keeping loss-making boxes where there is a social need.

The BT row could force ministers to make competition more of an issue in future sell-offs. Indeed Government supporters are worried that a continuing bad press could reflect badly on the rest of the privatisation programme.

Paul Johnson writes in this week's Spectator that BT is on its way to becoming "the most loathed institution in the country. . . . The danger for the Government, and indeed for all of us who value freedom and hate the all-developing state, is that BT will bring the entire concept of privatisation into disrepute."

Man in the News

Syd Silverman

Wall St nixed as Syd pix Brit bucks

By James Buchan



City, and the daily version that is published in Hollywood with an overlapping circulation of 22,000. But it has left Syd Silverman and all three of his five-year contracts. They ain't broke, so why fix it?" seep Walter Cahners.

But times are changing in Hollywood and Syd Silverman is changing with them. With the sale of Variety, Hollywood's pioneer is well and truly laid to rest.

An engagingly cool man, it is hard to associate him with the world of blackbustlers and bombs, or imagine him fired up about anything, unless it is the vintage Allard sports cars he races at weekends.

Decidedly old fashioned, he never questioned going into

the family business. He inherited the paper in 1950, when his father Sidney died, and took over full time in 1956, after Princeton and the army. "I never really had another job," he says simply. Variety was still dominated by the memory of his grandfather, Sime.

"There was a strong sense of the ghost of Sime," says Les Brown, who joined the paper in 1958 and still occasionally snipes at Syd from rival Channels magazine. "We used to say Sime's ghost runs the paper. Probably still does."

Sime launched Variety with \$2,500 from his father-in-law after being sacked from another paper for not buttering up advertisers. He made a creed of an independent spirit—no

mean feat, in an industry of swollen egos—and, it seems, editorial parsimony. "In the trade field, journalism can be a little bit corrupt," says Les Brown. "We knew you could never make deals with advertisers. And it was always kinda cheap. When I worked there, there was never enough scotch or paste pots." It was also Sime who ordained the peculiar language of the paper, which began as the backstage pass of Broadway but is now the lingua franca of the entertainment and publishing industry. Baloney, cory, hype, mogul, moppet, bimbo—you name it, Variety coined or popularised it.

"As entertainment evolved, so did Variety," said Syd Silverman. "The first films were reviewed in 1911-12, and then

gradually movies took over the paper. In 1924, a radio department was set up. Sheet music reports gave way to coverage of recorded music. Sound came to the movies. Though Sime lived in New York all his life, he recognised the growing importance of Hollywood by founding the daily Variety there in 1933.

"He was a friend of the whole pioneer generation," says Les Brown, a colourful people, with very big egos. There were big fights, says Syd Silverman. At Sime's death Mae West is supposed to have sent 500 orchids.

Syd Silverman no cautiously followed the industry into new media: television, cable, home video and (rather hesitantly) the explosion of the popular record industry. He has opened a half a dozen offices and toned down Variety's jargon so that French actresses and Georgian film directors are not entirely bemused.

"Variety has expanded horizontally," Variety has found it increasingly hard to stave off competition from more specialised newspapers. And Syd Silverman himself has no sympathy at all for the new shape of the industry, with the main studios owned by industrial giants like Coca-Cola or Gulf & Western.

"The pioneer era has just about gone," he says. "We are now into corporate control of most entities, with professional managers who don't control stock. Companies are put in play and there is an investment-banking philosophy that I don't like. There is no stability; no stable management which can enjoy good relations with the creative people." Somewhere along the line, Syd Silverman decided that if Variety were to continue to cover the industry, it might need capital and resources from outside.

He loathes Wall Street with its relentless pressure for larger profits every quarter. In the end, he decided on a parent company in distant England, with an unquoted US subsidiary which does not own a movie company.

"Up to now, the answer was always no," he says. "But they want us to operate in the same independent fashion as we've done for eight decades."

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France finds a place in the crossfire

THE PRESENT crisis between France and Iran seems identical in form to the one between London and Tehran in May and June of this year. But the interests which France has at stake in the current crisis are of a wholly different order.

France has never had the intense political and economic involvement with Iran which Britain had for the best part of a century before the break with Mossadegh in 1951—or even after the Shah's restoration under American auspices in 1953. Indeed, France's first premiership in 1974-76, the French established a close relationship with Iran, where British influence had been effectively ended by the revolution of 1979. France also sent an envoy to some of the Shah's political opponents, including most famously Ayatollah Khomeini, in the crucial months of October 1979 to January 1980.

On might have expected this relationship to be reversed after the revolution, with France becoming the preferred Western interlocutor of the new Iranian regime. But that was not the case. If the Ayatollah felt any gratitude for his four months' stay at Noughle-Chateau, it was soon eclipsed by anger that France should give the same hospitality to his enemies as he had done to the Shah's.

In the eyes of the Ayatollah and his supporters, however, France's continued support of Iran was a far worse affront. Paris provided large-scale arms supplies to Tehran, mostly on credit, after Iraq's spectacular invasion of Iran in September 1980. The life-or-death struggle which that invasion inaugurated, is nearly seven years later, still being fought out.

France was by no means alone among Western powers in hoping that the Iraqi onslaught would succeed in bringing about the collapse of the Iranian revolutionary regime. But only France made such a direct and visible contribution to the Iraqi war effort.

France's support for Iraq has never wavered, but the awkwardness of being seen as an enemy by Iran has become steadily more apparent. For a time it was

Edward Mortimer on the roots of the latest Franco-Iranian row

partially obscured by confusion about other aspects of France's Middle East policy. President Mitterrand was noticeably more sympathetic to Israel than any of his Fifth Republic predecessors. He also sent French troops to Lebanon in 1982 as part of the American-sponsored Multinational Force. This

rapidly came to be seen as the guarantor of President Amin Gemayel's attempt to restore Christian hegemony in Lebanon and to contain the rising power of the Lebanese Shi'ites. France's historic

ties with the Maronite community were recalled and many influential people in France saw it as France's historic mission to shore up Lebanon's Christians against the Islamic tide. All these were seen as reasons why French diplomats were ordered in Lebanon; why her troops there were

the victim of a suicide bomb attack in October, 1983; why a number of her citizens were held hostage by extremist Shi'ite groups; and as possible explanations for terrorist attacks in France itself.

But by the time Mr Chirac returned to power in March last year, the conviction was hardening that Iranian enmity was the main source of France's problems in the Middle East. In particular, Iran was seen as holding the key to the fate of French hostages in Lebanon. Mr Chirac embarked on an attempt to "normalise" relations with Iran.

He had a carrot to offer in the shape of money owing to the Shah's Government, which Iran was all the more anxious to lay hands on, as its oil revenues declined.

It is also virtually certain that France offered to sell arms to Iran, and some concessions may have been delivered.

But what France did not offer, as far as is known, was the thing Iran most wanted—a suspension of arms shipments to Iraq. Indeed, last summer France supplied Iraq with aircraft whose refuelling capacity enabled them to attack shipping far down the Gulf, threatening the shuttle between Iran's key oil installations at Kharg Island and Sirri—and so raising insurance premiums on Iranian oil to levels which were prohibitive.

The rapidly with which the September bombings in Paris followed this development strongly suggested an Iranian connection to many Middle East watchers. French inves-

tigators were at first thrown off the scent by the apparent involvement of the Abdallah family—Lebanese Christians operating from an area ostensibly under Syrian control. But, since the arrest of Mohammed Ali Hamadi in Frankfurt last January, the French police have obtained evidence implicating a network of Lebanese activists, some North African and some Lebanese, with connections to the pro-Iranian Hizballah party in Beirut.

That trail, it seems, has now led to Mr Valid Gerdil, the "interpreter" of the Iranian Embassy in Paris—who also gathered bigger fish than the so-called Iranian consul in Manchester whose arrest triggered the Iranian-British crisis. It is becoming clearer than ever that terrorism in Europe, like hostage-taking in Lebanon, is a weapon of the Iranian state. So long as that remains the case those in Iran who wish to develop "normal" relations with Western countries are inevitably going to find it difficult.

THE DRIVE from the southern neighbourhood of Leblon to Rio de Janeiro's busy, streetwise commercial centre must be the most achingly beautiful, 12-kilometre commuter run in the world.

Starting from the ocean-fronted suburb—a tropical Chelsea with all the palm-tree exotica that California somehow never quite delivers—one swings in a series of golden arcs past an estate agents' paradise of film apartment blocks, humming with uniformed maids and obsequious porters.

From the outset, the executive limousines are reassuringly reminded that the Rio, law know's who is boss. Between 7 am and 10 am at almost every junction, policemen usher the corporate traffic through red lights and up one-way streets to spread the privilege of privilege towards their repro partners' desks.

After shimmering, jigger-clogged Copacabana comes Botafogo Bay, a tight horseshoe under the Sugar Loaf, bobbing with tax-deductible yachts and blessed by the omnipresent arms of the towering Christ the Redeemer. Then, more quickly now, the traffic shoots past the peeling facades of Flamengo as—Nelson Rockefeller and Avri Sennas all—we jockey for lanes and exits to the Centro.

Last week, this visual treat was momentarily disturbed by a corpse on the manicured central reservation. It was being rudely pedaled by a cop. Deaf to doo nevertheless, the journey was less than 20 minutes.

Luiz Roberto, 21 years worth of sullen, stone-kicking obedience, has to get up earlier. Some of his neighbours in Nova Holanda favela—a 15-

year-old shanty town that jostles for air between chemicals warehouses and the thriving industrial floss of Guanabara Bay—are local factory workers. But perhaps the bulk are part of the city's service workers, who run life and messages and proxy in the eternal bank queues, or become aids and porters in the Zona Sul.

Luiz, an office messenger, picks his way through the mud and brick block houses, past the stalled drainage works and on to the 10-lane Rio-Sao Paulo highway—the notorious Avenida Brasil.

When comes the choice of how to cross, either by an excursion to the nearest pedestrian overpass, or by the adrenalin route, hopping over the concrete lane dividers to join the bus queue—as orderly as a football crowd and thick with elbow-like violinists on amphetamines.

By the time the bus arrives, belching black exhaust into the heat, the ensuing scramble suggests more a panicked reflex than a prosaic daily grind.

Such commuter contrast, of course, are the red meat of life in the Third World—indeed, less colourful examples can be witnessed in rush-hours from Holborn to Hoboken.

But what, to the newcomer, makes Rio different is the stark juxtaposition of the two standards of living, the quality that economist Edgar Bauer immortalised as "Belgindia". Brazil's Belgium half living

alongside its Indian one. Apart, perhaps, from Johannesburg, no city better illustrates the syndrome than Rio, where favelas on steep hillside stare down on a Disneyland of luxury. And even inside the corrugated iron shacks, television insistently promotes the wisdom of

\$45 (\$28) minimum monthly salary would be eaten up in transport costs.

Understandably, the riot was roundly condemned. Politicians all but unanimously agreed that such anti-democratic activity was a threat to the nation. Less understandable was the flabber-

to my maid." So is the newly elected Congress a modern-day replica of Louis XVI's Estates General—a service station on the motorway to revolution? Apparently not. Most commentators attribute the violence not to subversive

By Ivo Dawney in Rio de Janeiro

health insurance schemes, the convenience of air-travel services and the bargains to be had at bloodstock sales.

If the two Brazils meet anywhere it is in Avenida Rio Branco, the banking heartland of the Centro, built as the southern hemisphere's Champs Elysees but today acting as a front line between the city's poverty-stricken north and its increasingly nervous south.

Just a fortnight ago, the avenue exploded when a mob of city workers burnt and stoned buses and clashed with police in a five-hour protest at a 50 per cent rise in fares. To many from Nova Holanda favela, the rise had meant that as much as... a third... of the

gasted response of the judge who authorised the fare rise. "I never dreamt this would be the reaction," he protested.

But the damage had been done, leaving rougher elements in the north zone jubilant and the softer south even more nervous than before. "Every body is stunned," a well-paid secretary said. "Things like this don't happen in Rio."

Happen, nonetheless, they did. And while foreigners asked why such events were more frequent, many residents, for the first time, began to question their reading of less salubrious society.

"I can't understand it," said an angry hostess. "I know what people are thinking—I talk

politics but to simple disillusionment. Last year's wage-increasing, price-freezing Cruzado Plan had, for a tantalising few months, handed out real rises in everyone's living standards. Today—just 12 months later—the purchasing power of the minimum wage is, according to one analysis, at a 30-year low.

It is plain too that constitutional-writing Congress, now immersed in 501 articles and 5,000 amendments, has lost its glamour. To most people, long-awaited democracy is proving a tin god, with the politicians pricing at its discredited

So imminent revolution—despite the claims, made by

Labour parties. Since these supposedly "national" parties refuse to contest parliamentary seats within Northern Ireland this means that the people of Northern Ireland have no say in choosing which party will govern them.

Present proposals to set up a devolved government in Northern Ireland would fail to tackle the fundamental problem. Northern Ireland is excluded from the normal politics of the state of which she is part. Because of this undemocratic exclusion from the left-centre-right politics, which are the norm for Western democracies, sectarian parties are free to continue to exist.

E. Birnie, 9 Lancelot Road, Belfast BT9 6LL.

Flight from reality

From Mr J. P. Murphy

In his article (July 11), "The Bank of England and the US Fed are working on agreed rules for bank capital adequacy; and if these two agree, then the rest of the world will probably fall into step."

It is sufficient for me to point out that of the 14 largest banks in the world, 10 are owned by the Japanese. The present flight is not from gold but from reality.

John Patrick Murphy, 116 Falmouth House, SE11.

Counter revolution

From Mr C. B. Nichols.

Sir,—If the Treasury is so concerned about the bulk and weight of our coinage, as reported by your economics correspondent (July 16) would it be too revolutionary to suggest that it replace two of the biggest and heaviest, the £1 and 50p coins, by banknotes?

C. B. Nichols, The Holmes, High Street, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset.

When Ulster says 'Yes'

From Mr J. E. Birnie

Sir,—In his article, Ulster Stops Saying No (July 10), it is curious that Mr Rutherford should make no mention of the policy to which a majority of the Northern Irish Protestant and Roman Catholics have been saying yes for some time.

Recent opinion polls suggest at least 60 per cent of both communities would prefer to be fully integrated into the United Kingdom.

At present all the citizens of this part of the United Kingdom are excluded from joining either the Conservative or

Letters to the Editor

Burton's will not suit all

From Mr L. Brennan

Sir,—Senior executive option holders will be keen to study implications of the new guidelines for share incentive schemes issued by the Association of British Insurers (ABI). The new guidelines appear, somewhat after the event, to establish the rules governing the exercise of such incentives as the norm for the ABI.

The controversy over the Burton approach centred on its individual limit on options of eight times salary. Burton met no options could be exercised unless Burton's earnings per share rise in real terms (ie by more than the retail prices index (RPI). Additionally, the second half of the options could be exercised only if the earnings per share rise enough to keep Burton in the upper quartile of growth companies.

The ABI is now seeking to extend this approach to all companies. But it is questionable whether this particular approach, or indeed any single one, will suit all companies—for example manufacturing companies shedding labour and financial services companies desperate to retain talented labour. While few would be grudge special rewards to the high performing companies, it seems harsh on the majority to allow the top quarter of companies to obtain twice as many share options, on shares probably growing twice as fast, as the other three-quarters get on shares that are probably performing well if not outstandingly so.

To deny any share option gain to a company whose earnings per share have not outstripped the RPI, seems a narrow view. Share price itself takes account of the growth in earnings per share, as well as the market's view of all the other aspects of the company's

performance. If the market should reward shareholders a higher price despite poor growth in earnings per share, why should not option holders enjoy that gain?

The revised guidelines are interesting for what they do not say. They do not address the often artificial distinction between equity and cash rewards (indeed the abuse of shareholder dilution to pay the cash bonus is a well-known option). They do not address the increasing use of executive share schemes instead of new issues. They do not address positively the use of subsidiary shares in substitution for some of the holding company's shares reserved for share option schemes.

Experience since 1984 has shown that blanket guidelines cannot cope with the range of commercial needs of all companies. To select one new approach, very appropriate as it is for one of Britain's best companies, and impose it on all others is a recipe for yet further pressure on the ABI's role in monitoring the development of share schemes. I wait with interest to see how the other great institutional body, the National Association of Pension Funds, responds to the ABI initiative.

Carrie Brennan, Chichester House, 100, New Bridge Street Consultants Ltd, 30-34, New Bridge Street EC4.

Russians, not parliamentarians

From Mr N. Beloff

Sir,—The interesting Reuters dispatch on Stalinism, which you publish today, contains a misleading noun. Soviet notabilities are not "parliament-

arians" but members of the Supreme Soviet, correctly described by the historian Hugh Thomas as "an honorary panel of, by Russian standards, distinguished people, who meet at rare intervals in order to register unanimous approval of programmes put forward by the Soviet Communist Party."

As a former Reuters correspondent, I fully sympathise with slips by a reporter writing against time. But this particular error needs to be corrected, for fear of encouraging the now fashionable view that Gorbachev's USSR is not essentially different from our own democratic society. Parliamentarians the Russians are not.

Nora Beloff, 11 Belize Road, London NW6 4RX.

The need to plan overseas aid

From Mr G. Clark

Sir,—As co-author of a memorandum on the Aid and Trade Provision (ATP), submitted (with Professor John Toye) to the Foreign Affairs Committee investigation of UK aid in 1978, and as a reported remarks of Alan Clark (no relation), the Trade Minister, on this subject (July 15).

I feel it would be of great benefit to the minister if he read the Overseas Development Agency's evaluation report on six case studies of ATP projects between 1978 and 1984 (available from the ODA), which show that the pursuance of short-sighted commercial objectives using ATP funds has not, in many cases, had the desired positive impact on UK export opportunities, precisely because the projects were not looked at in the usual detail by ODA officials according to regular aid

projects. In one such case, a British company supplied 50 buses to Zambia, and within four years only four remained operational. This does no good for the reputation of UK goods for the reputation of UK aid.

Simply securing contracts for British industry is not the primary purpose of UK overseas aid—it is to promote the development of Third World countries—and projects which are not successful in the Third World, because either unsuitable goods are supplied (as in the case of the buses) or external factors, such as the lack of foreign exchange, inhibit the ability of the purchaser to maintain the equipment, reduce any long term commercial benefits that such projects will realise for British industry. It is in the interests of all that UK aid-funded projects, including those in the ATP scheme, are successful, and that does require some effective planning from the UK end.

Graham Clark, Centre for Development Studies, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea.

When Ulster says 'Yes'

From Mr J. E. Birnie

Sir,—In his article, Ulster Stops Saying No (July 10), it is curious that Mr Rutherford should make no mention of the policy to which a majority of the Northern Irish Protestant and Roman Catholics have been saying yes for some time.

Recent opinion polls suggest at least 60 per cent of both communities would prefer to be fully integrated into the United Kingdom.

At present all the citizens of this part of the United Kingdom are excluded from joining either the Conservative or

heavily indebted LDCs. It might also stimulate the demand which drives export credit agencies. In most OECD countries ECAs have resources to lend, but no applications for loans.

Of course, lenders must take some responsibility for their bad loans, and for banks the burden will fall ultimately on the shareholders. However, I believe the foregoing proposal could be acceptable to debtor and creditor governments, and the banks would not have to reserve so much of their capital for possible loan losses.

Albert H. Hamilton, Senior Associate, First Washington Associates, 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA.

Such a programme, tailored to each debtor's circumstances, could do much to encourage voluntary lending to Peru, Zambia, and many other

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	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Frome (01458 64367)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Gateway (0905 46525)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Greenwich (01-858 8212)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Guardian (01-242 0811)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Hendon (01-302 6384)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Leamington Spa (01-262 1021)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Leamington Spa (0926 27920)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Leeds and Holbeck (0532 495611)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Leeds Permanent	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
London Permanent (01-222 33811)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Manchester (0282 498281)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Marston (0282 498281)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Marnborough (01-485 5575)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
National Counties (01-242 0822)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
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	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Nationalwide (01-242 0822)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Newbury (03635 43675)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Newcastle (091 232 6676)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Northern Rock (091 285 7291)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Norwich & Peterborough (0735 51473)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Nottingham (0462 481444)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
Packham (Freephone Packham)	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Yearly	£10,000	90 days' notice or penalty
	Capital Bond	8.00	8.00	Year		

APPOINTMENTS

Chief executive for ARC

Mr Keith Orrell-Jones has become chief executive of ARC. He succeeds Mr Charles Spence, who continues as chairman. Mr Orrell-Jones joined the company in 1972. His career has included appointments as deputy regional director of ARC South Eastern, group marketing director and managing director of ARC Southern. Since 1982 he has been president and chief executive of ARC America Corporation, based in Newport Beach, California.

The MITEL CORPORATION has appointed as president and chief executive officer Mr John Jarvis, who joins from PA, where he was group chief executive of PA Computers and Telecommunications since 1981.

Following the formation of CGA FINANCIAL SERVICES, which includes CGA (Insurance Brokers) together with Fraser Tisdall, Barrett Studd and 12,345 Investments, the company, part of Fredericks Place Holdings, has appointed Mr Ronald Densham (chief executive of The Country Gentlemen's Association) as chairman; Mr Stuart Goldsmith (chief executive of Fredericks Place Holdings) as deputy chairman; Mr Stewart

Jones, managing director; Mr Keith Owen, deputy managing director; and Mr Victor Harvey, Mr Marcus Egerton, Mr Colin Studd, Mr Robin Hunter and Mr Timothy de Salla as directors.

COUNTY NAWEST, investment banking subsidiary of National Westminster Bank, has appointed Mr Pierre Esteve as a director. He will advise on the expansion of the investment banking activities of County NAWEST in France. He is an inspector general of the Finance Inspection Corps and, until 1983, was president of Union des Assurances de Paris, the largest insurance company in France.

PERTHCREST has appointed two directors. Mr Steve Day, with company since 1974, becomes customer services director. Mr Ian Young joins the board as non-executive director with responsibility for business strategy planning and support to the managing director.

Following acquisition of the ANALYTICAL DEVELOPMENT CO by Halma, the following board changes have been made. Mr Ernest Meuth, formerly managing director of ADC, has

been appointed vice-chairman. Succeeding him as managing director is Mr Ron Coombes, formerly technical director. Mr Geoff Smith, formerly company secretary, has been appointed company secretary.

BUNZL has appointed Mr Jon Edie-Rates as company secretary. He joined as company solicitor in 1985. Mr Donald Latimer, formerly company secretary, remains as group services director.

The following board appointments have been made in three HAWKER SIDDELEY subsidiary companies: Mr Pauline Sanderson to Hawker Pacific Pty as products support director; Mr Christopher Campbell to Elmwood Sensors as finance director; and Mr Trevor Passmore to Mirreless Blackstone (Stamford) as production director.

The CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS has appointed Vice Admiral Sir George Vallings as secretary on his retirement in November.

Mr Ronald Yeasley, chairman of BIS Applied Systems, has been reappointed as a non-executive member of the LONDON ELECTRICITY BOARD for a further three years.

Mr Andrew W. M. Walker, managing director of MTP Melbourne, has been appointed responsible for the Akron Road facility of Lawson Mardon Packaging Toronto.

central marketing department at Cowley, Uxbridge. Mr Gill, formerly general manager at the Lydbrook plant, is responsible for the Warrenton, Wigan, Shirley, Lydbrook, Redwood and Powell Lane, and Thatcham branches plus the company's packaging advisory centre at Aylesford.

Mr Peter Stuart Ardron, who recently retired as vice chairman of Barclays International, has joined the board of AIR INTERNATIONAL as vice chairman.

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Mr David Potter has joined the board of MAYBOX GROUP, West End theatre group that is diversifying into multi-screen cinema. Mr Potter is global corporate banking director of Midland Bank, and a director of Samuel Montagu.

PORTFOLIO ADMINISTRATION has appointed Mr Terry Forward as a director.

Mr John Pates, managing director of Kenneth Wilson Group, and Mr Bob Stokell, managing director of BEOCO, have become directors of BUNGE & CO.

Mr Brian Bassett, a regional director with Barratt Developments, has been appointed managing director of GREEN LANE DEVELOPMENTS, residential development subsidiary of Alfred Walker.

Mr Peter J. Sangster and Mr Robert G. Gil have been appointed executive directors of REED CORRUGATED CASES. Mr Sangster, formerly marketing director, is responsible for the company's Edinburgh, Coatbridge, Hartlepool, Eiston, Aylesford and Langer plants plus the

central marketing department at Cowley, Uxbridge. Mr Gill, formerly general manager at the Lydbrook plant, is responsible for the Warrenton, Wigan, Shirley, Lydbrook, Redwood and Powell Lane, and Thatcham branches plus the company's packaging advisory centre at Aylesford.

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FT-ACTUARIES INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, The Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS	Friday July 17 1987										Thurs July 16					Wed July 15					Tues July 14					Year ago (approx)					Highs and Lows Index				
	Index No.	Day's Change	%	Vol.	Est. Div. Yield (%)	Index No.	Day's Change	%	Vol.	Est. Div. Yield (%)	Index No.	Day's Change	%	Vol.	Est. Div. Yield (%)	Index No.	Day's Change	%	Vol.	Est. Div. Yield (%)	Index No.	Day's Change	%	Vol.	Est. Div. Yield (%)	1987 High	1987 Low	High	Low	Since Completion					
1 CAPITAL BONDS (221)	1037.22	+0.1	0.01	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
2 Building Materials (20)	1263.02	-1.3	-0.10	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
3 Contracting, Construction (2)	1941.39	-0.5	-0.03	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
4 Electricals (12)	2730.81	+0.9	0.04	2,64	10.37	30,46	+270.62	2055.90	1885.12	1851.22	21,081	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177			
5 Electronics (35)	2236.70	+1.4	0.07	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
6 Mechanical Engineering (60)	541.74	+0.1	0.02	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
7 Metals and Metal Finishing (7)	585.70	-0.4	-0.07	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
8 Motors (14)	406.20	-	0.00	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
9 Other Industrial Materials (21)	1499.54	-0.8	-0.06	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
10 CONSUMER GROUP (185)	1487.25	-0.4	-0.03	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
11 Beverages and Distillers (22)	1255.03	-0.2	-0.02	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
12 Food Manufacturers (26)	1889.31	-0.3	-0.02	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
13 Food Retailing (16)	2822.79	-1.4	-0.05	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
14 Health and Household Goods (10)	2473.44	-0.3	-0.01	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
15 Leisure (31)	2473.44	-0.3	-0.01	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
16 Publishing & Printing (15)	736.97	-0.5	-0.07	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
17 Retail (16)	2159.33	+0.1	0.01	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
18 Textiles (16)	2473.44	-0.3	-0.01	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
19 OTHER GROUPS (84)	1183.16	-0.1	-0.01	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
20 Agencies (16)	1795.57	+0.6	0.03	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
21 Chemicals (22)	1461.02	-0.7	-0.05	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
22 Composites (12)	1330.12	-1.0	-0.08	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
23 Shipping and Transport (11)	2473.44	-0.3	-0.01	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
24 Telecommunications (2)	1183.16	-0.1	-0.01	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
25 Miscellaneous (23)	1719.19	+0.2	0.01	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
26 INDUSTRIAL GROUP (85)	1263.02	-1.3	-0.10	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
27 Oil & Gas (17)	2473.44	-0.3	-0.01	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
28 500 SHARE INDEX (500)	1263.02	-1.3	-0.10	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
29 FINANCIAL GROUP (119)	181.01	-	0.00	3,34	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
30 Insurance (10)	608.77	+0.7	0.12	1,66	8.58	2,62	+10.39	11,21	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
31 Insurance (Life) (9)	181.01	-	0.00	3,34	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
32 Insurance (Composited) (7)	652.05	-0.8	-0.12	1,66	8.58	2,62	+10.39	11,21	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
33 Insurance (Reinsured) (9)	139.54	+2.5	1.89	3,67	16.76	2,62	+10.39	11,21	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
34 Health Plans (23)	594.36	+3.1	0.51	1,66	8.58	2,62	+10.39	11,21	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
35 Property (47)	1306.44	-2.2	-0.34	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
36 Other Financial (28)	603.19	-	0.00	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	696.73	2/1	10,32	724.89	58.71	131,274			
37 Investment Trusts (9)	1147.98	-0.1	-0.01	2,62	10.39	11,21	+0.08	0.72	10,32	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0.01	1,67	10,32	724.89	+0.01	0												

INTL. COMPANIES and FINANCE

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

Incredible Hulk enters bid arena

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY IN NEW YORK

SPIDERMAN and the Incredible Hulk, two of the most popular characters in the stockmarket yesterday, were bidding for each other in the New York Stock Exchange.

If the \$41 a share bid, widely hailed for its industrial logic, succeeds, New World Pictures, a rapidly-growing California maker of low-budget movies and TV programmes, will have created a vertically integrated fantasy empire.

Its capabilities would stretch from the conception of Hulk,

Spiderman and 900 other Marvel characters to their physical manifestation in Kenner Parker Toys and the elaboration of their adventures in New World films, cartoons and television series.

In the wildly volatile and faddish world of children's toys and entertainment, this integration of product development, marketing and promotion through TV series and commercials could give the combined company a considerable edge. This, according to Wall Street analysts, seems to justify the high price New World is willing to pay for the Kenner Parker business.

Before the disclosure on June 12 that New World was accumulating Kenner Parker stock, the company's shares were languishing between \$25 and \$30.

Yesterday the stockmarket anticipated a further sweetening of the New World offer, with Kenner's shares jumping \$8 to \$44 after the bid announcement. In the past fiscal year Kenner's net profits amounted to \$122 per share.

Kenner Parker did not immediately react to the New World bid, except to say that it was "unsolicited" and that the board would consider it in the near future.

New World, which appears to be anxious for an agreed deal, went out of its way to praise Kenner's management and suggested that it would be prepared to raise its offer if additional value in the company could be demonstrated in the context of a negotiated transaction.

In the context of a takeover fight on the other hand, New World has Drexel Burnham Lambert, as well as the Incredible Hulk on its side.

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CIBC links with Gordon Capital

BY ROBERT GIBBENS IN MONTREAL

CANADIAN Imperial Bank of Commerce, the country's third largest chartered bank, is joining Gordon Capital Corporation to form a major investment bank able to compete with the emerging international giants.

Gordon Capital, Canada's fastest growing investment firm, has been seeking an alliance with another institution for about a year to increase its capital base and its competitive power.

The new investment bank, due to be officially announced last week, will have capital of

around C\$400m (US\$402m), the same as Wood Gundy, which last month sold a 35 per cent stake in the Toronto-based bank to form a major investment bank.

Gordon has specialised in institutional trading and within the past five years has become a major force in corporate underwriting. Some of its deals have been backed by Hies International, an investment banking firm associated with the Peter and Barbara Bronfman interests of Toronto.

CIBC, with assets of about C\$850m, has been through a restructuring and recently set

up an investment banking unit headed by a well-known figure from the Toronto investment community.

The bank will own 20 to 35 per cent of the new investment bank, to be called Gordon Capital. This in turn will own 50 per cent of Gordon Capital. Some industry reports claim that a US institution may join later as a third partner.

Gordon Capital will concentrate on raising securities and underwriting, while Gordon Investments will concentrate on mergers and deals and venture capital projects.

Nissan Motor slides 43% at group net level

By Yoko Shibata in Tokyo

NISSAN MOTOR and its 47 consolidated subsidiaries and 29 equity method have reported a 42.9 per cent fall in consolidated net profits to ¥20,370bn (¥135m) in the year to March 1987.

The decline was attributed chiefly to lower net profits at the parent company, which fell ¥18.1bn from the previous year. Net profits of consolidated subsidiaries, however, increased by ¥2.8bn.

Consolidated sales reached ¥4,273.4bn, down 7.7 per cent from the previous year. Of the total revenue, ¥444.1bn was attributable to the adverse effect of the yen's appreciation. The group incurred an operating loss of ¥31.42bn against the previous year's operating profit of ¥75.48bn, and pre-tax profits of ¥22.5bn, down 59.2 per cent from the previous year.

For the current year, Nissan forecasts that its consolidated sales will edge up to ¥4,500bn. Consolidated net profits are projected at ¥40bn, or ¥250bn, assuming an exchange rate of slightly less than ¥150 to the dollar.

The effects of deregulation were already being felt, he said, with pressure both on pay levels as entrants to the Canadian market sought to take on staff, and on margins, particularly in bond trading and institutional business.

In contrast foreign companies had for the most part shown less interest in the retail sector, which still provides about 45-50 per cent of the Canadian industry's business and where a large branch network is an important factor.

In the longer-term Mr Taylor foresees continuing and increasing attrition among the smaller and medium-sized Canadian securities firms, and estimates that 20 out of the current 73 members of the Toronto Stock Exchange would survive the next five years.

Mr Taylor said in London this week that the Canadian securities industry had not

until recently seen the need to build capital. However, as the industry changed from being basically an agency business to a principal-based one, there had been "a mad scramble and a race" to build capital.

McLeod itself has grown from an equity base of just C\$8m in 1978 to around C\$250m, helped by a deal this year lifting Shearson Lehman's stake in the company from 10 per cent to 30 per cent.

However Mr Taylor said the company would need to double its capital to about C\$500m over the next five years, to face up to competition in the domestic market from larger, strongly capitalised US, Japanese and UK investment banks, and from domestic financial institutions many of which had yet to show their hand.

Dealers 'will need more capital'

BY ANDREW BAXTER

CANADIAN SECURITIES companies will need steadily increasing infusions of new capital to compete effectively in the recently deregulated domestic market and abroad, said Mr Austin Taylor, chairman of McLeod Young Weir, one of the big three Canadian investment dealers.

On June 30, as part of Canada's "Little Bang," the hitherto protected securities industry was formally opened to competition. Foreign groups were given the right to buy up to 50 per cent of a Canadian firm, rising to 100 per cent from June 30 next year. Canadian trust companies, banks and insurance groups are also now entitled to enter the securities business.

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In the longer-term Mr Taylor foresees continuing and increasing attrition among the smaller and medium-sized Canadian securities firms, and estimates that 20 out of the current 73 members of the Toronto Stock Exchange would survive the next five years.

TV station rules could hit Fairfax

By Chris Sherwell in Sydney

JOHN FAIRFAX, the Australian newspaper and broadcaster, is set to lose half the \$432m (US\$277.1m) it paid for the Melbourne HSV-7 television station when it sells the station to a consortium of media companies.

This forecast came yesterday from Mr John D'Arcy, chairman of the Herald and Weekly Times (HWT) group, which sold HSV-7 to Fairfax, which was taken over by Mr Rupert Murdoch's News group.

Mr D'Arcy, speaking in Melbourne, said the prices paid for television stations earlier this year were extraordinarily high and there was no relation to fundamentals.

The Fairfax purchase was made during the media industry shake-up which followed the Government's announcement of proposed changes in media ownership rules last November.

The changes removed the two-station ceiling on the ownership of television channels, but allowed the owner of both a major newspaper and a television station in a single metropolitan area.

This is a problem for Fairfax because it owns The Age newspaper in Melbourne. According to Mr D'Arcy, HSV-7 was valued at A\$115m in November 1985. Mr D'Arcy said he would be surprised if a prospective buyer would offer half of the A\$220m paid by Fairfax.

Mr D'Arcy would, however, receive a higher price if the Seven network was sold as a whole. The group owns three stations in the network, in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Messina plans trial milling at Lebowa site

By Jim Jones in Johannesburg

MESSINA, the South African copper and coal mining company, is to spend R10m (\$4.8m) on trial milling at its platinum prospect in the black homeland of Lebowa.

Exploration drilling is almost complete, but the directors say that the trial work will still have to be done and underground mining conditions determined before full-scale mining operations can be established.

Drilling has indicated the existence of 19m tonnes of Moresby reef grading 6.4 grammes per tonne (g/t) of platinum group metals (PGM) on three farms in Lebowa, with another 37m tonnes of ore inferred below the depth of drilling. About 32m tonnes of UG2 reef grading 6.2 g/t have also been indicated, with a further 43m tonnes inferred below the ore indicated by drilling.

The company has not said when the metallurgical tests will be completed, but Johannesburg mining analysts believe they will take much longer than a year.

If Messina does decide to develop a mine, it will be the third new platinum venture to be started since the middle of 1986. Gold Fields of South Africa (GSA) is spending about R559m to develop its Northern platinum mine, and Golden Dumps has started to establish its Lefkoehrys mine.

Telefonica lifts operating profit 26% in first half

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

TELEFONICA, the Spanish telecommunications group, which last month added New York to its quota of foreign stock market listings, reports strong progress over the first half of 1987.

On turnover, 1.6 per cent higher at Pta 259bn (\$2,060m), the group's gross operating profit for the six months ended June 1987 have risen to Pta 54.5bn, an increase of 28 per cent.

Telefonica, in which the Spanish Government holds a 47 per cent shareholding, achieved sales and gross profits growth of 17 per cent and 98 per cent respectively over the first quarter of this year.

The group's operating margin for the six months widened to Pta 171.4bn from Pta 146.6bn.

Capital spending during the period rose by 27 per cent to Pta 10.5bn.

Around 22 per cent of Telefonica's capital is held outside Spain. As well as New York, the company is listed in London, Frankfurt, Paris and Tokyo.

Last month's debut on Wall Street saw Telefonica raise around \$750m through a placing of shares.

Telefonica said it was in talks with Fiat aimed at persuading the Italian motor group to join a venture capital company being formed by Telefonica to invest in technology businesses in Spain and abroad.

A US partner who also being sought, Mr Luis Solana, Telefonica's chairman said.

Good progress by SBC

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

SWISS BANK CORPORATION has made good progress in the second quarter and its results for the first half of 1987 are said to have been satisfactory.

The big Swiss bank, which gave no figures for earnings, said its interest surplus was slightly ahead of the 1986 second quarter, even though margins remained tight. In specially difficult conditions of competition, the bank achieved

an unchanged high level of earnings, it said.

Costs were substantially higher due to capital spending and a rise in personnel costs, but stayed within budget. Assets rose 3.1 per cent in the half-year to SF1,422.1bn (\$82.9bn).

For 1986 the bank turned in net profits of SF1,674m and maintained a dividend of SF1.3 a share.

NORTH AMERICAN QUARTERLY RESULTS

Company	1987	1986
AMERICAN HOME PRODUCTS		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60
BLACK & DECKER		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60
CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60
CONTEL		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60
GANNETT		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60
GILLETTE		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60
INLAND STEEL INDUSTRIES		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60
NEO BANCORP		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60
NORTH AMERICAN PHILIPS		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60
TANDEN COMPUTERS		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60
WEST POINT-PEPPERELL		
Revenue	1,230m	1,230m
Net income	195.3m	181.3m
Net per share	1.33	1.30
Six months		
Revenue	2,520m	2,470m
Net income	412.3m	378.2m
Net per share	2.78	2.60

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
Metals			
Free Market A.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market B.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market C.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market D.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market E.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market F.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market G.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market H.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market I.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market J.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market K.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market L.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market M.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market N.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market O.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market P.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market Q.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market R.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market S.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market T.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market U.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market V.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market W.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market X.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market Y.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Free Market Z.L.	\$/lb	1.075/1.085	+0.005
Grains			
Barley Futures Nov.	\$/bu	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Maize French	\$/bu	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Wheat Futures Nov.	\$/bu	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Oil			
Crude Oil	\$/bbl	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Gas Oil	\$/bbl	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Other Commodities			
Coffee	\$/lb	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Cocoa	\$/lb	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Gold	\$/oz	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Silver	\$/oz	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Platinum	\$/oz	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Palladium	\$/oz	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Rubber	\$/lb	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Soybean Meal	\$/bu	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Soybean Oil	\$/bbl	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Wool	\$/lb	2.00/2.01	+0.01
Woolfats	\$/lb	2.00/2.01	+0.01

OIL

Aug 18.75 (82.00), Sept 18.75 (82.00), Oct 18.75 (82.00), Nov 18.75 (82.00), Dec 18.75 (82.00), Jan 18.75 (82.00), Feb 18.75 (82.00), Mar 18.75 (82.00), Apr 18.75 (82.00), May 18.75 (82.00), Jun 18.75 (82.00), Jul 18.75 (82.00), Aug 18.75 (82.00), Sep 18.75 (82.00), Oct 18.75 (82.00), Nov 18.75 (82.00), Dec 18.75 (82.00), Jan 18.75 (82.00), Feb 18.75 (82.00), Mar 18.75 (82.00), Apr 18.75 (82.00), May 18.75 (82.00), Jun 18.75 (82.00), Jul 18.75 (82.00), Aug 18.75 (82.00), Sep 18.75 (82.00), Oct 18.75 (82.00), Nov 18.75 (82.00), Dec 18.75 (82.00), Jan 18.75 (82.00), Feb 18.75 (82.00), Mar 18.75 (82.00), Apr 18.75 (82.00), May 18.75 (82.00), Jun 18.75 (82.00), Jul 18.75 (82.00), Aug 18.75 (82.00), Sep 18.75 (82.00), Oct 18.75 (82.00), Nov 18.75 (82.00), Dec 18.75 (82.00),

INSURANCES

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LONDON SHARE SERVICE

[illegible]

LONDON SHARE SERVICE

AMERICANS—Continued

1987	Low	Stock	Price	+ or -	Div
22	22	Delta Leu 31	27 1/2	+	\$1.00
23	23	Delta (B. 51)	10 1/2	+	—
24	24	Stromberg	22 1/2	+	\$1.32
25	25	Stromberg Bell 51	22 1/2	+	\$1.32
26	26	Delta Continental	45 1/2	+	—
27	27	Delta Bell 51	41 1/2	+	\$1.60
28	28	TRW Inc. 51 4	33 1/2	+	\$1.64
29	29	Telepac 35	107 1/2	+	—
30	30	Telepac 35 91-9	107 1/2	+	10%
31	31	Telepac 35 25	28 1/2	+	10%
32	32	Time	22 1/2	+	—
33	33	Time 35 35	22 1/2	+	40%
34	34	Transvener 31	15 1/2	+	\$1.74
35	35	Transvener 35 35	15 1/2	+	—
36	36	TRINOVIA Corp.	25 1/2	+	\$51.00
37	37	NUSS 51	25 1/2	+	\$1.20
38	38	NUSS 51	25 1/2	+	\$1.50
39	39	Unit. Technologies	37 1/2	+	\$1.48
40	40	US West	37 1/2	+	\$3.48
41	41	US West	37 1/2	+	—
42	42	Worlworth 51 9	22 1/2	+	—
43	43	Worlworth 51 9	34 1/2	+	\$1.30

BUILDING, TIMBER,

Stock	Price	% chg	Div	Yield	C
Laidlaw (John)	434	+2	15.67		
Laidlaw (J.J.)	750		16.5		
Lawrence (W.)	179	+1	4.0		
Le & S. Cent. Ry. Co.	207	+2	16.4		
Lilly (F.J.C.)	666	-2			
Macon & Clyde	360		5.7		
Mallory (W.)	311		19.45		
McAlister (Alfred)	664	-1	14.5		
McCarthy & Stone 20p	615	+2	13.31		
McCl. Lumber & Bldg.	252	+4	7.6		
Magnum & Southern	387	-8			
Mahoney (Hidg.)	197		10.1		
Murley	287	-2	4.1		
Marshall Haffins	348	-3	6.25		
Mumford Lumber 20p	331		15.0		
Myer Inc.	455		7.6		
Nelson (Stan) 10p	126	+3	1.25		
Nelson (Stan) 20p	333		12.5		
Newhall (E.)	212		12.5		
Northwestern Teak	265	+1	17.2		

DRAPERY AND STORES—Cont.[illegible]

ENGINEERING—Continued

Law	Stock	Price	±	Net	Yr	CV
137	Blackboard Mart.	270	0	6.75	0	1.1
145	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
146	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
147	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
148	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
149	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
150	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
151	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
152	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
153	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
154	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
155	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
156	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
157	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
158	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
159	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
160	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
161	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
162	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
163	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
164	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
165	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
166	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
167	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
168	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
169	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
170	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
171	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
172	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
173	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
174	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
175	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
176	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
177	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
178	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
179	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
180	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
181	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
182	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
183	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
184	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
185	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
186	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
187	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
188	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
189	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
190	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
191	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
192	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
193	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
194	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
195	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
196	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
197	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
198	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
199	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1
200	Blackboard Mart.	270	-1	6.75	0	1.1

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

1997	Low	Stock	Price	Net	Wt	Cwt
120	120	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
121	121	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
122	122	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
123	123	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
124	124	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
125	125	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
126	126	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
127	127	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
128	128	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
129	129	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
130	130	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
131	131	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
132	132	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
133	133	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
134	134	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
135	135	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
136	136	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
137	137	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
138	138	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
139	139	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
140	140	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
141	141	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
142	142	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
143	143	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
144	144	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
145	145	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
146	146	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
147	147	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
148	148	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
149	149	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
150	150	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
151	151	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
152	152	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
153	153	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
154	154	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
155	155	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
156	156	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
157	157	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
158	158	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
159	159	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
160	160	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
161	161	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
162	162	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
163	163	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
164	164	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
165	165	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
166	166	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
167	167	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
168	168	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
169	169	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
170	170	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
171	171	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
172	172	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
173	173	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
174	174	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
175	175	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
176	176	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
177	177	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
178	178	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
179	179	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
180	180	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
181	181	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
182	182	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
183	183	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
184	184	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
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187	187	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
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190	190	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
191	191	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
192	192	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
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227	227	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
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336	336	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
337	337	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
338	338	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
339	339	Alameda Hops	27	0.1	0	0
340						

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

[illegible]

CANADIANS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

[illegible]

BANKS, HP & LEASING

[illegible]

DRAPERY AND STORES

Meats Inventory 100	400	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 1000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 1100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 1200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 1300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 1400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 1500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 1600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 1700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 1800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 1900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 2000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 2100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 2200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 2300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 2400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 2500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 2600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 2700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 2800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 2900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 3000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 3100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 3200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 3300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 3400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 3500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 3600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 3700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 3800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 3900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 4000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 4100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 4200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 4300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 4400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 4500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 4600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 4700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 4800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 4900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 5000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 5100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 5200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 5300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 5400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 5500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 5600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 5700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 5800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 5900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 6000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 6100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 6200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 6300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 6400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 6500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 6600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 6700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 6800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 6900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 7000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 7100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 7200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 7300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 7400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 7500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 7600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 7700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 7800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 7900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 8000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 8100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 8200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 8300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 8400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 8500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 8600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 8700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 8800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 8900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 9000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 9100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 9200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 9300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 9400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 9500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 9600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 9700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 9800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 9900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 10000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 10100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 10200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 10300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 10400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 10500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 10600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 10700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 10800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 10900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 11000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 11100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 11200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 11300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 11400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 11500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 11600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 11700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 11800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 11900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 12000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 12100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 12200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 12300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 12400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 12500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 12600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 12700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 12800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 12900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 13000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 13100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 13200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 13300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 13400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 13500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 13600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 13700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 13800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 13900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 14000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 14100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 14200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 14300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 14400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 14500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 14600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 14700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 14800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 14900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 15000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 15100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 15200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 15300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 15400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 15500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 15600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 15700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 15800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 15900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 16000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 16100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 16200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 16300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 16400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 16500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 16600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 16700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 16800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 16900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 17000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 17100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 17200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 17300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 17400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 17500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 17600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 17700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 17800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 17900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 18000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 18100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 18200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 18300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 18400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 18500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 18600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 18700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 18800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 18900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 19000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 19100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 19200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 19300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 19400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 19500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 19600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 19700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 19800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 19900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 20000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 20100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 20200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 20300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 20400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 20500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 20600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 20700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 20800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 20900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 21000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 21100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 21200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 21300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 21400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 21500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 21600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 21700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 21800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 21900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 22000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 22100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 22200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 22300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 22400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 22500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 22600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 22700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 22800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 22900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 23000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 23100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 23200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 23300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 23400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 23500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 23600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 23700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 23800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 23900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 24000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 24100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 24200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 24300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 24400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 24500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 24600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 24700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 24800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 24900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 25000	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 25100	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 25200	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 25300	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 25400	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 25500	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 25600	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 25700	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 25800	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 25900	350	15	1.0	3.8
Aluminum 2600				

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839																																																																																																																																																																	

BUILDING. TIMBER. ROADS

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

573	APV Baker 50p	785	-3
524	Advest Group	323	-3
66	Aerospace Eng	138	-2
37	Alstho Ltds	391	-
387	Asch & Lucy	635	-
412	Astra Intl. 5p	361	+1
153	Adams Comg Egs 5p	352	+2
75	Auralop Ltd	116	+9
205	BIM Group 10p	427	+20
189	Babcock Intl	261	+20
46	Bailley (C. H.)	43	+1
234	Baker Perkins 50p	38	+1
71	Barns Lims. 20p	354	+2
30	Bentley 10p	73	-
30	Bentley 10p	73	-

HOTELS AND CATERERS

[illegible]

INSURANCES

Year	Symbol	Company Name	Price	Net	Div	Yld	Vol
1936	20	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1937	21	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1938	22	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1939	23	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1940	24	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1941	25	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1942	26	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1943	27	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1944	28	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1945	29	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1946	30	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1947	31	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1948	32	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1949	33	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1950	34	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1951	35	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1952	36	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1953	37	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1954	38	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1955	39	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1956	40	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1957	41	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1958	42	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1959	43	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1960	44	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1961	45	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1962	46	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1963	47	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1964	48	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1965	49	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1966	50	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1967	51	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1968	52	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1969	53	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1970	54	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1971	55	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1972	56	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1973	57	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1974	58	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1975	59	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1976	60	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1977	61	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1978	62	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1979	63	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1980	64	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1981	65	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1982	66	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1983	67	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
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1987	71	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
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1991	75	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1992	76	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1993	77	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1994	78	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1995	79	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1996	80	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1997	81	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1998	82	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
1999	83	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2000	84	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2001	85	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2002	86	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2003	87	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2004	88	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2005	89	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2006	90	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2007	91	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2008	92	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2009	93	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2010	94	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2011	95	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2012	96	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2013	97	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2014	98	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2015	99	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100
2016	100	Western Union (N.Y.)	62.15	1.0	0	2.1	100

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77	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
78	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
79	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
80	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
81	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
82	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
83	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
84	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
85	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
86	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
87	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
88	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
89	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
90	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
91	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
92	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
93	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
94	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
95	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
96	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
97	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
98	37	W/1000 Ex 500	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
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WEEKEND FT

Saturday July 18 / Sunday July 19 1987

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The richest county in China

David Dodwell on how Hong Kong is pouring investment into the mainland

MR CHAO KWOK, his vast belly swaying under a grubby white vest, was vigorously, and perhaps a little drunkenly, swapping toasts with a tableful of senior party cadres who were visiting Changping for the day from Canton.

Despite his best efforts to put on a workaday—even shoddy—appearance, there could be no disguising the fact that behind wide smiles betraying an empty upper gum and a lower gum littered with gold, Mr Chao was a local terms a man to be reckoned with. In Changping he is a prodigal returned; a patriot who has shown filial piety by returning to his home town.

He has set up three factories there, and has almost finished a three-storey home that would rank as a gentry mansion wherever he lived in the world. For Mr Chao, who later pattered around his hundreds of expensive potted Bonsai trees as he showed the same speechless officials around his prodigal home, this has been the fulfilment of a dream.

In Hong Kong, the likes of himself are two-penny, and he would have to be a billionaire—rather than a mere millionaire—to afford the sort of home he has built for his retirement in Changping. Back in his ancestral town, he is "Mr Big" and he clearly enjoys it.

Mr Chao is not alone in responding to the ancestral call of Changping. About 130 factories are processing goods for Hong Kong manufacturers, employing 20,000 people in a town that has a population of no more than 52,000. Changping is just one of 82 townships in Dongguan, a municipality of 1.2m people just two hours driving time from Hong Kong on the road to Canton, which occupies an unique place in mainland China's race to modernise its economy.

A combination of factors—closeness to Hong Kong, ancestral ties with about 830,000 overseas Chinese, a richly endowed local economy and a sense of dynamism uncommon in such a bureaucratic-ridden country—has made Dongguan the richest municipality in China. Burgeoning exports to Hong Kong and a proliferation of investments from the British territory have lifted living standards into the stratosphere by comparison with more normal parts of the People's Republic.

And yet Dongguan is by no means the only beneficiary of this intimate relationship with Hong Kong. It is now clear that manufacturers in the British territory would have been unable to maintain price competitiveness in the world's export markets if they had not been able to exploit the cheap labour markets of places like Dongguan.

Mr Chao is one of thousands of Hong Kong Chinese who have in the past five years expanded their successful Hong Kong-based businesses into China. Indeed, it has become the norm for Hong Kong's textiles, electronics, toy and watch manufacturers to set up all new manufacturing operations in the territory's Chinese hinterland. As job opportunities in the local manufacturing sector have remained stagnant, only the surge in service industries has kept the territory in full employment.

Mr Gordon Wu, the ebullient head of Hopewell Holdings in Hong Kong, which is involved in a wide range of construction and infrastructure projects in the Pearl River delta, reflects an increasingly widespread conviction when he predicts that Hong Kong will eventually become "the shop front" while the Pearl River delta hinterland acts as "the factory."

"Hong Kong and Guangdong together will be able to compete with South Korea and Taiwan, and give them a run for their money," predicts Mr Wu. Hong Kong operations in Guangdong account for about 150,000 workers. Across the entire Pearl River delta it is estimated that there are in total about 10,000 such ventures, with more than a million of Guangdong's 62m population working for Hong Kong companies.

The scale of Hong Kong's dependence on this workforce is perhaps most vividly illustrated when it is recalled that the territory's own total workforce is only 2.6m. Small wonder, then, that China has in the past two years become Hong Kong's main trading partner.

Political sensitivities over China's resumption of sovereignty in 1997 mean that many would rather not spell out the extent to which Hong Kong now depends on its Chinese hinterland. In addition, Hong Kong textile manufacturers, harassed by officials in the US and Europe over quota allocations and country of origin queries, are wary of drawing detailed attention to where their shirts, dresses or fashion pullovers are really made.

The modest municipality of Dongguan plays an exceptional but illustrative part in this extraordinary symbiosis between Hong Kong and China. It also provides a vivid example of how inextricably linked Hong Kong's future is with that of mainland China—10 years ahead of China's formal resumption of sovereignty.

Mr Allen Lee, a legislative councillor in Hong Kong who has at the same time established a state-of-the-art electronics plant in Dongguan, has no illusions: "If it were not for China, and its open door policy, we in Hong Kong would not be where we are today."

Mr Chao would agree, only adding, perhaps, that if it were not for Hong Kong, China—and in particular places like Dongguan—would also not be where it is today.

One of Dongguan's earliest claims to fame was as a fireworks manufacturer in the 16th century, when sticks of bamboo were stuffed with gunpowder, and stuffed into a hole in the ground. Technology has moved on from those days, but Dongguan remains arguably the largest pyrotechnic centre in the world.

However, Dongguan's strongest modern-day links with the outside world, are as a supplier to Hong Kong. The town's famous "Peacock" brand rice noodles account for about one-fifth of



Paolo di Paolo

the noodles sold in Hong Kong. Up to 30,000 tonnes of fresh vegetables are sold to Hong Kong each year. Dongguan sausages are a delicacy for most Hong Kong people.

The Dongguan area is also famed for its lychee orchards. During the hectic 20-day harvesting season that has just ended, about 2,500 tonnes of these delicate red-skinned fruits were exported to Hong Kong.

Add China's largest banana plantation, great tracts of delta land devoted to sugar cane, and one of the country's largest mandarin orange crops, and you have an area of considerable agricultural importance, supplying canning industries, soft drinks factories, and a substantial biscuit-making operation.

Even more critically, Hong Kong relies on Dongguan for its water supplies. About 70 per cent of the territory's fresh water is pumped from the East River—a major tributary of the Pearl River—at the town of Kintao in Dongguan.

So large is the community in Hong Kong of people of Dongguan origin that they are represented not simply by one Dongguan association, but by 17 clanmen's associations linked with particular townships.

Most of the television sets, washing machines, tape recorders and the like that grace most Dongguan homes have been brought in by relatives making their annual Chinese New Year

pilgrimage to their ancestral town. Just over 100,000 came to visit during this past spring.

Donations from Dongguan people in Hong Kong have built hundreds of miles of road in the area, have endowed dozens of schools, hospitals and libraries. About 40 per cent of the cost of the municipality's new polytechnic, due to be completed next year, will be borne by donations from about 20 Hong Kong companies.

But the most powerful consequence of the open door policy has been the awesome scale of inward investment of Hong Kong manufacturers. Apart from the 1,900 processing ventures, Dongguan has attracted 243 equity and co-operative joint ventures, with a committed investment of \$188m.

This underlined an export performance that compares favourably with many entire provinces in China, rather than municipalities.

This heavyweight economic performance was mirrored, in 1984, in a literal and larger-than-life way when three weightlifters from the township of Shilong, on the banks of the East River in Dongguan, walked away from the Los Angeles Olympics with two gold medals and a silver medal. China's total for the whole games was just four golds, so the fame of Shilong has been trumpeted across the nation. One of the gold medalists, Chen Weigang, is the nephew of two brothers who were set

ting weightlifting world records in the 1950s. The oldest Chen, Chen Jinkai, is renowned not just in Shilong but nationwide. A great bronze statue of a weightlifter towers over the town square. A special weightlifting school for 62 boys and 10 girls has been set up nearby.

Yip Heungsin, party deputy secretary in Shilong, pours cold water on the idea that there is something in the water of the East River that breeds its weightlifters: "They are not born. They are the product of hard training," he says. He insists that old Mr Chen has been an inspiration to the township, and one is tempted to feel that some of that inspiration has rubbed off on Dongguan's unusually energetic, up-and-coming administration.

One direct result of its love affair with Hong Kong is a construction boom in the Dongguan area that has converted almost the whole municipality into a building site. Officials say that nine out of every ten farming families now own their homes. Villages that in other parts of China would be peeling wattle and daub structures are choked with three-storey houses topped with extravagant golden-tiled roofs.

Municipal statistics show that average urban salaries amount to about 50 per cent above the national average. But workers in any of the local toy factories

— and Mattel, Perfecta and Kader all have large factories in the county — are earning sums that may still be about a third of the average wage paid to a Hong Kong factory worker, but are unimaginable fortunes to most mainland Chinese families.

"People used to gossip about ten-thousand yuan households a couple of years ago," says Liu Sujin, Dongguan's Vice-Mayor. Today, no-one would be impressed unless you could say you were a one-hundred-thousand household — and there are plenty of these around."

This affluence raises important issues for foreign investors and the Peking authorities alike. Widening disparities between municipalities in Guangdong and those in China's interior have the potential to cause serious political friction over national economic policies. Investors who set up factories inside China to exploit the country's cheap labour structure are beginning to find that the wage gap between China and other countries in the Pacific region is narrowing. For them, it is a matter of relief that large armies of migrants are being recruited into Guangdong from as far afield as Anhui, Hunan or Hubei provinces, to meet the rising demand for labour. These fresh labour supplies not only help to relieve the pressures of a tightening labour market but also bring into the area workers whose wage expectations do not yet match those of local people.

Deborah Wong, who with her American husband employs about 800 people in a toy factory in Changan in the extreme south of Dongguan county, says about half of her workforce come from outside Dongguan. Since most of these are girls, who return to their own provinces to get married after a couple of years of remitting their incomes back home, they have very little inflationary impact on wage levels. They are replaced by girls newly arrived from the interior, who are equally in awe of local salary levels.

It is at first sight puzzling why Hong Kong manufacturers should have descended in such numbers on the county of Dongguan. Many have traced back their ancestral roots, but many more, including Deborah Wong, who came originally from Zhongshan in the Foshan area, or Allen Lee, whose native province is Shandong—have chosen the municipality for more commercial reasons.

They have wanted to make investments close to Hong Kong—to maximise control over their ventures—but have been reluctant to invest in Shenzhen, the special economic zone adjoining Hong Kong, or in Baoshan county, which contains Shenzhen and is sandwiched between Hong Kong and Dongguan.

Allen Lee had his own reasons for basing his high-technology factory in Dongguan, making copper-clad laminates (from which electronics manufacturers make their printed circuit boards): "There is simply less bureaucracy in Dongguan," he said.

Already it is inconceivable that Hong Kong manufacturers could compete without the economies that come from production in China. It is possible, at the same time, that the interdependence with municipalities like Dongguan can eventually be the catalyst for economic takeoff in China's more sheltered interior provinces.

As Gordon Wu commented: "It seems to be a perfect marriage." Perhaps the honeymoon is still too fresh in people's walkways for his prediction to be put to any test. If he is right, then those predicting doom for Hong Kong beyond 1997 can put their feet up and relax. But if he is wrong then there are likely to be some pretty grisly divorce proceedings ahead for Hong Kong's entire manufacturing sector.

The Long View

When Polonius's rules don't apply

ONCE UPON a time banks held nearly three-quarters of their assets in Treasury bills and other government paper. When demand for loans rose they met it (if they were allowed to) by selling some of this portfolio, and the government itself, or rather its central bank, normally stood behind the market as buyer of last resort. While it would often take the opportunity to edge up interest rates a little, to discourage borrowing and spur saving, it did "print" the money in this way.

This was not, by the way, a literal description, though many old men in the City seemed to have a mental picture of the presses churning out banknotes, and used to raise an eyebrow for Parliament to limit the fiduciary issue, as it did when the note first became a Bank of England monopoly. In real life, as Sir Leslie O'Brien (whose signature appeared on the notes) told the Radcliffe Committee, it was all a matter of book entries.

It is not difficult to see how this process, which created spending power without any corresponding saving, was potentially inflationary. If demand was slack, well and good; if not, we had what Clement Attlee used to patiently explain as too much money chasing too few goods. He would then get his Chancellor to impose a squeeze.

Things are radically different these days. Banks depend almost entirely on deposits by the public to finance their lending. These deposits mainly represent genuine saving, as is shown in the aggregate by the fact that despite the explosive growth of consumer borrowing in the English-speaking countries, consumer spending keeps pretty closely in step with

The world-wide rise in money supply and stock prices reflects a greater willingness among ordinary citizens to borrow and to lend. Could this mean high values are here to stay?

asks Anthony Harris



world where too much money is chasing too many goods (to quote a neat phrase from Brian Reading). Credit may be growing at a rate which seems imprudent to Brian Quinn of the Bank of England, and may indeed get individual borrowers into very deep water; and money is growing at a rate which must make Sir William Rees Mogg glad he turned to bookkeeping. But nearly every goods market on earth, from soyabean oil to computers, is glutted.

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This may seem a dull and technical story so far, though there is some resonance in understanding these matters; but now we come to the beef, as the lady said.

A growing number of savers clearly regard a high-interest account as altogether too tame for their money. They and their pension funds are buying stocks instead. Up to now this decision has paid off most handsomely, as it was bound to do, for stock markets are places where both wishes and fears tend to be self-fulfilling.

You might imagine that since there is a seller for every buyer, the world as a whole cannot increase the proportion of its wealth represented by stocks, any more than the demand for land can increase the supply (apart from new issues in the first case and Dutch-style reclamation in the other). But the rise in prices works the trick: broad money, or old-fashioned saving, has grown fast, but stock values have grown much faster. Prices reflect asset preferences.

Some readers may find that vertigo sets in here. If the great bull market reflects no more than an investment fashion, it could well collapse as soon as skirts come down. (This was actually a fashionable investment theory in the days of swinging Britain, and a lot of psychological claptrap was written about it.)

While there is something in this, the gloom is easily overcome. This rise in saving, the result of tax changes and aggressive marketing by the finance industry, looks fairly stable. The level of stock prices, in the UK at least, does not look too irrational against the fundamentals: prices have only recently matched the

underlying asset values at replacement cost, and profits have been rising broadly in step with the market.

There are certainly some dangers. Bull markets never end smoothly, because prices reflect the hope of ever-rising prices, and interest sharply when that hope is at a discount. This will cause some shock to the real economy when it happens, as savers feel poorer.

A rather greater danger is that consumers will come to share Quinn's worries about their debt burden, and stop borrowing; this would be highly deflationary if savers still wished to save as much as ever (the Keynesian trap). However, one must not be fixated in this world economy; American borrowers may be stretched, and British borrowers in sight of it, but the Japanese and Germans, among others, have barely begun to borrow.

Provided that demand growth does not falter unduly (and this is the big proviso) a bull market does have a function in the real economy. It greatly reduces the cost of enterprise capital, and so helps to encourage investment in new productive capacity. This, indeed, is the normal sequence in an economic upswing: the real investment boom is quite a late entrant.

In the longer run, we face also the age problem. The retirement boom which is already worrying governments from London to Tokyo will not happen until the next century; but when it does, the retired may be net sellers.

You can start worrying about that any time in the next two decades. It's not so much a matter of judgment as temperament. The sanguine won't, the melancholic can't be stopped. Me, I'm phlegmatic.

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MARKETS

On and ever up

TERRIBLE US trade figures, a weak bond market, rising tensions in the Middle East, and further politically embarrassing testimony in the arms-for-hostages investigations on Capitol Hill have not been sufficient to derail a US stock market which seems intent on breaking above the 2,500 level on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

There are plenty of reasons why the stock market could go down but for the time being, investors are concentrating on the steady stream of strong second-quarter earnings figures which have been rolling across the news wires. Merrill Lynch, the nation's biggest stockbroker, is projecting a 30 per cent rise in corporate earnings this year and next, and the latest reported profit figures are fuelling Wall Street's bullish profit projections.

This week, AT & T managed (for once) to post a 40 per cent rise in second-quarter earnings per share to 55 cents. Its shares replied by jumping \$1.50 to \$31.75, their highest level since the company divested itself of its fast-growing regional operating companies, often known as the Baby Bells.

IBM, by contrast, dashed the hopes of its more optimistic fans—who had pushed its shares to an all-time high of \$189 on the eve of its results

this week—by reporting an 8 per cent decline in its net income per share to \$1.95—its fifth consecutive decline in quarterly earnings.

AT & T's second-quarter performance was just one of several sparkling earnings announcements which pushed Wall Street into new high ground this week. Among the blue chips, Merck's earnings rose 40 per cent to \$1.72; Philip Morris's were 26.8 per cent ahead at \$2; and United Technologies and ITT turned in such impressive gains that they may soon be re-labelled as growth stocks.

Coca-Cola, which earlier in the week posted a 20.7 per cent rise in earnings per share to 70

Wall Street

cents, announced yesterday that it planned to buy back up to 40m of its shares over the next three years. This pushed its shares more than \$3 higher to \$47. The day before, Philip Morris shares had hit a new peak of \$84 after it disclosed plans to spend \$1bn on buying back its shares.

In addition to the strong earnings gains, several household names in the US corporate sector increased their dividends substantially this week. RJR Nabisco increased its quarterly payout by a fifth to 48 cents a share, whilst the New York Times raised its dividend by 22 per cent to 11 cents per

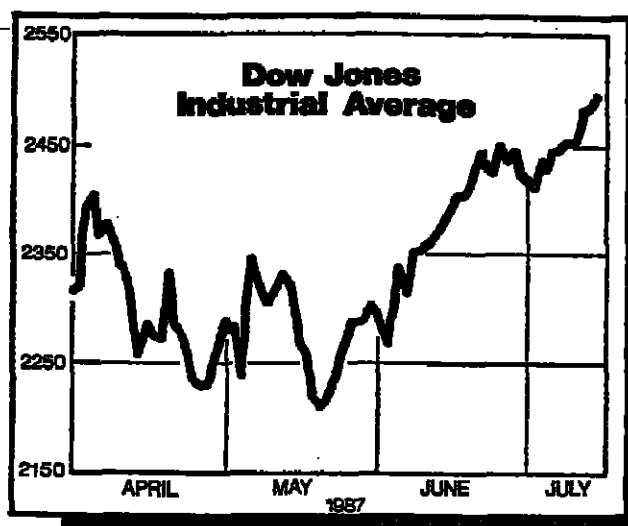
quarter and Hewlett-Packard raised its payout by 18 per cent to 64 cents.

Aside from AT&T, the shares of several other well-known names hit new peaks this week. Chevron (\$64) and Du Pont (\$126) have been helped by the surprising strength of oil prices, which moved above \$22 a barrel; whilst Phelps Dodge (\$42), Eastman Kodak (\$31) and Honeywell (\$37) reflect the stock market's renewed love affair with formerly out-of-favour stocks.

However, it has been the near bankrupt US steel industry which has produced some of the most stellar stock market performers over the past few weeks. Bethlehem Steel, shares of which were languishing at \$44 last year, moved above \$18 this week; and the shares of Inland Steel (\$34) and USX (\$37) have both more than doubled over the past year.

Although the rise in share prices this week has been more broadly-based than in the past, there are still several areas of the stock market which have failed to take part in the stock market advance. The Dow Jones Utilities average is 16 per cent below its 12-month high of 227.83, and the shares of such industry heavyweights as Pacific Gas & Electric are less than a point above their year's low of 19 and yielding 9.7 per cent.

The financial sector has also been in the doldrums. The



shares of American Express, the financial services giant, are trading around \$33 compared with a peak of \$40. And US brokerage firms have also taken a hammering over the past few weeks, reflecting investor concern about the heavy bond losses incurred during the spring shakeout in the US credit markets when bond prices collapsed.

American Express's decision to sell off a substantial stake in its Wall Street investment bank, Shearson Lehman Brothers, looks well timed. The shares came to the market in May at \$34 and are now trading at \$27, although the company appears to have escaped the big losses in the credit markets. It managed to increase its earnings by \$1m to \$61.4m in the latest quarter.

Speculation continues to swirl around the future of Texaco,

the embattled oil giant which has been forced to seek the protection of the US bankruptcy courts to escape a crippling damages award. Robert Holmes & Court, the Australian financier, has been increasing his stake again and it is now worth over \$1bn.

Given the scale of his commitment to a share which is not paying a dividend, Wall Street is betting that he might be the catalyst which breaks the deadlock between Texaco and Pennzoil, which is seeking \$10bn in damages.

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William Hall

Dollar fuels boom

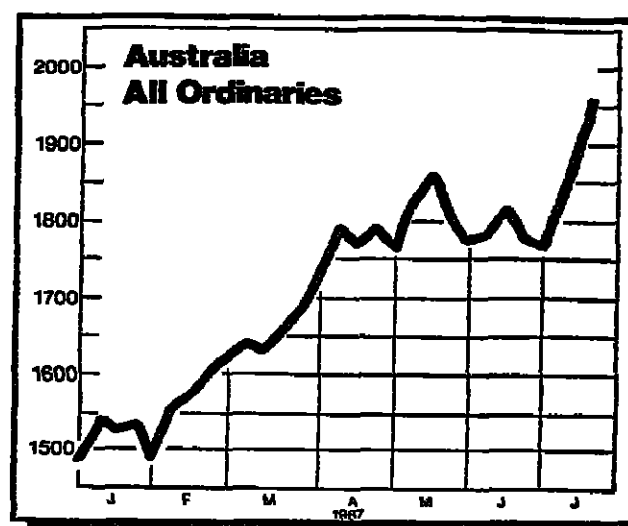
LIKE a hardy mountaineer venturing ever higher along an uncharted Himalayan peak, Australia's booming stock market continues to scale undreamed-of heights, blithely ignoring the oft-expressed worries of anxious onlookers.

Just as bullish sentiment has pushed stock markets in New York, London and elsewhere skyward, so optimism has dominated Australia's share markets. How long it will stay that way is anybody's guess.

This week, the widely-watched All-Ordinaries index, covering 280 companies across all sectors, jumped 60.1 points to 1975.4, finishing the week at its highest-ever level.

Over the past three weeks, the index has risen no less than 227.1 points. Since the beginning of the year it has added more than 500 points, hitting new records on almost 50 trading days. In a rally which began in mid-1982 the market has tripled, and it is now extremely difficult to find a bargain.

Analysts agree readily on the main international and domestic factors which have driven the market through the roof. But they argue furiously over the relative weight which should be attached to them. All tend to become visibly nervous when



over the market pauses for breath.

Over recent months, it has become plain that one consideration in particular has encouraged local share prices to move upwards—the relative firmness of the Australian dollar.

One year ago, the share market underwent a severe correction when the dollar hit a new low point. Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, likened the country's economic crisis to war and Paul Keating, the Treasurer, warned Australians that it could become a "banana republic".

Higher domestic interest rates were imposed, which put a floor under the weakened currency, and the Australia dollar soon began firming. Once the currency risk started to evaporate, the overall effect on the stock market was dramatic.

Domestic institutions brought funds back or moved less offshore, while foreign institutions saw a reduced investment risk. The "weight of money" argument in favour of a rise in stock prices started to hold sway.

In a related development, the international gold price, strengthening as the US dollar weakened because of the US trade deficit, became an influential external factor.

This week, for example, as so many recent occasions, the US trade figures reinforced gloom over the US dollar and pushed up the bullion price, making gold stocks more attractive.

Australian gold stocks (and, therefore, the local share market) reap a clear benefit, not only because the country is a major gold producer but also because of growing restrictions on investments in South Africa.

Thus, at the close yesterday the Gold Stocks index finished at 3,595.1, up almost 842 points on the figure of three weeks ago. Early in October last year it

was well below half this level, at around 1,600.

Resources stocks generally also have picked up in line with recent improvements in the price of oil, copper and aluminium. But investor interest has tended to concentrate on better-known mining stocks like CRA, Western Mining and the recently floated BHP Gold.

Latterly, interest also has grown in selected Australian industrial stocks—specifically, blue chips with a sizeable proportion of their earnings abroad. They include companies like News Corporation, Elders IXL, TNT, Boral and Pacific Dunlop, which have responded to the changed domestic climate by expanding offshore and hope to capitalise on their invaluable

Australia

experience in a tricky domestic market.

Brokers say that although the local economic picture is uninspiring, the outlook for corporate profit growth remains relatively strong, at least for larger companies reaping the benefits of rationalisation or expecting a surge in overseas earnings.

Reinforcing these trends has been Australia's comparative attractiveness as jitters have increased in overbought markets like Japan, Japanese, as well as American and European, investors have been looking to other equity markets.

Although this overseas buying interest in Australia has weakened slightly in recent weeks, the underlying trend still is upwards. Average daily turnover on the Australian share markets of A\$250m a day in June is well above the 1985 average of A\$160m.

Chris Sherwell

Hopeful signs for North Sea oil

WHEN THE price of oil goes up, oil companies start to feel the benefit almost at once, as higher prices are quickly translated into higher revenues. The next link in the chain—from higher revenues to higher expenditure—is more tenuous, as oil companies are reluctant to spend more unless the oil price increase is large and appears permanent.

This explains why most oil sector share prices rose in tandem with the oil price, while oil service companies lagged behind. But after six months with oil at \$18 a barrel or more, the first signs are emerging of new investment in the North Sea. Last week Shell announced the first major oil development since the oil price collapsed, and at least half a dozen other new fields are now likely to be developed sooner than later.

Nobody pretends that the North Sea is moving back towards another boom. But last year the supply industry was

suffering so badly that the existence of many of the companies was threatened. The small improvement now in evidence may be just enough to tip the balance and give the supply companies enough work to tide them over until the North Sea genuinely starts to thrive again.

The companies which have been worst hit by last year's recession have been the drillers. It seems investors have become used to an unvaried diet of bad news and disappointment from drilling companies that they have been slow to absorb the fact that things are a little brighter.

Indeed, the market was positively shocked on Monday when KCA Drilling, one of the largest British drilling companies, announced a deal which could

signal the end of its troubles. For a brief moment its shares almost doubled on the stock exchange.

This time a year ago, KCA seemed to be in deep difficulty. Both its two main offshore vessels, a large semi-submersible rig and a drillship were out of

of. But on Monday KCA announced that Orion Bank had agreed to take on the ship and the £10 debt associated with it.

An even more unexpected new lease of life has fallen on the other quoted UK drilling company, Jebsens Drilling, which owns three semi-submersible rigs and was in even worse straits than KCA. In March it announced that with losses of more than £50m it had no choice but to go into voluntary liquidation. All three rigs were put up for sale, and investors were warned that there would be little if anything left over for them when everything had been settled.

But during the next month or so Jebsens' shareholders should receive details of a deal which will save the company and give them a stake in the

company's future. Midland and Scottish, a privately owned offshore supplies company, is planning to inject money into Jebsens in return for a controlling stake.

The fact that both companies should have found solutions to their problems at the same time is no coincidence, as neither deal could have been struck without some prospect of a pick up in drilling activity.

At the worst time last winter about 60 per cent of all North Sea rigs were idle, and the rigs which were lucky enough to have work were being paid at rates which did not nearly cover costs.

While Jebsens three rigs are still laid up, Midland and Scottish may well have identified a task for them. The company has recently bought a

stake in the Emerald oil field in the North Sea, which is a candidate for early development, and for which Midland and Scottish is bidding as a contractor. The company has also set up a joint venture to specialise in developing small oil fields—on which the North Sea industry will become increasingly dependent as fewer large fields are discovered — which could create further work for the rigs in the future.

While the North Sea looks a happier place for its supply companies than it did a year ago, neither Jebsens nor KCA would dare to display anything more than the most cautious optimism. The extent of overcapacity in the industry—now down to about 40 per cent—is keeping rates uncomfortably low, and in some cases rigs are still being let for about \$12,000 a day, about \$3,000 less than operating costs.

Lucy Kellaway

Resources

work. The cost of keeping them idle was running into several millions of dollars a year, and its debts were mounting.

KCA decided to cut its losses and sell the drillship, but could find no buyers—an unemployed drillship was something most companies would pay to get rid

The Rank Organisation
Interim Results – 1987

	28 weeks ending 16.5.87	28 weeks ending 17.5.86
Profit before tax	£90.1m	£70.2m
Earnings per share	22.9p	19.7p
Ordinary dividend	7.25p	6.25p



The Interim Report will be posted to shareholders on 23rd July 1987. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, The Rank Organisation Plc, 6 Connaught Place, London, W1 2EZ.

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FINANCE & THE FAMILY

PEP for the people

TSB's scheme aims to woo small savers, says John Edwards

THE "PEOPLE'S PEP" is how TSB describes its Personal Equity Plan, to be launched on Monday. It claims that by holding back until July it has evolved a scheme designed to appeal to the small saver—the Chancellor's original target—rather than the sophisticated investor, who would gain most from the tax advantages offered. Unfortunately, the "People's PEP" doesn't seem to offer very good value for money. The choice is very restricted and the charges geared to hit the smaller investor hardest.

The plan has a low minimum £20 a month or a lump sum of £250. The first £420 is put into a TSB unit trust, initially the British Growth Trust. Investments above £420 are put into a deposit account until £300 has been accumulated. This is taken out to buy a single share from the FTSE 100 index, selected by the TSB investment team. As further tranches of £300 build up they are used to purchase further single shares up to a maximum of six shares. If you reach the maximum contribution of £2,400 the last £180 is also invested in a unit trust, making a total of £600.

No one could claim that a maximum of six shares represents a balanced portfolio and during the build-up period you are exposed to even greater risk by relying on even fewer shares. It is the smaller saver, unable or unwilling to afford the full annual contribution of £2,400, who is the most vulnerable to the TSB investment team falling to pick winners.

The charging structure also discriminates against the small investor. For current plans—that is, the first year—annual management fees are

£15 for investments up to £300 (equivalent to 6 per cent on the minimum) £25 for investments between £301 and £999; and £40 above £1,000 (equivalent to 1.6 per cent on the maximum of £2,400).

For holding plans—that is, the second year—the annual fees are reduced to £10, £15 and £25, and for mature plans a charge of 1 per cent of the market value is made, but subject to a minimum of £30.

For the unit trust element the normal 5 per cent initial charge is waived, but the monthly management fee of 0.065 per cent is retained. There are no charges for share dealing but you do pay the stamp duty and VAT on all charges. There is a £30 charge for withdrawing from a current or holding plan, and if you require more than two statements a year, a £10 charge will be made.

Not a plan for the small investor to say yes to.

Account will pay money market-related interest rates gross, free of tax. It will provide a cheque book for payments of any amounts, direct debits and standing orders, and direct credit of dividends and other income.

The account, which is being promoted by Save & Prosper, is expected to appeal in particular to expatriates. UK residents not liable to pay UK income tax or wishing to delay settlement of their tax liability.

Under the scheme, only the interest—now 12.5 per cent—is paid each month and the capital borrowed is repayable when the property is sold or from the borrower's estate on death.

It is available either for the purchase of a new home or to make repairs or improvements to an existing property. You can also use it to buy an annuity which would cover the interest on the loan and provide the home-owner with extra income.

A NEW offshore bank account, based in the Isle of Man, is being introduced on Monday by a local subsidiary of Robert Fleming, the London merchant bank.

The Maxx High Interest Bank

Higher benefits



Higher benefits

AN UNUSUAL offer is being made to members of the Bristol and West Building Society. Under its new Goldmaster policy, a 10-year with-profits endowment contract with Friends' Provident Life Office, the society has foregone any renewal commission, so enhancing the overall investment proceeds on the contract by 14 per cent.

The contract is straightforward. The investor pays monthly premiums—either £10, £20, £30 or £50—for its duration straight to Friends' Provident, Bristol and West, not involved at all once the contract has been set up.

However, instead of pocketing the 24 per cent commission for doing nothing, Bristol and West is rebating the commission back to the investor in the form of higher benefits. The expense incurred by the society in setting up the contract are recouped from the initial commission.

Investors dealing through independent intermediaries should not expect similar rebating on savings contracts, though. If the intermediary is doing his job properly, he will continually be servicing you and your account on a regular basis and he needs the renewal commission to finance these operations.

Indeed, there is considerable controversy over the whole principle of rebating commission. Certain brokers do offer partial rebates on contracts, enhancing the benefits to investors.

The proposition to rebating is on the ground that the intermediary runs the risk of giving a cut-price service to clients. The other point to consider in any rebating exercise is the overall level of returns given by the life company. A 14 per cent increase on an indifferent investment return might still fall short of a normal return from a top life company.

J. E. Eric Short

Hugo Dixon examines a new measure to protect consumers

Finance code lacks teeth

THE GROWTH of consumer debt, and concern that such financial institutions have been encouraging people to borrow money they cannot afford to pay back, persuaded the Finance Houses Association to bring out a code of conduct this week.

A welcome step. But the vagueness of the language used in the code makes one wonder if the association will be able to catch any of its 47 members breaking the rules. Even if it can, does it really have the will to expel members—which include most of the best-known names in the industry—or has it threatened?

Take, for example, the provision on dealing with young people. Irresponsible lending to the young is one of the greatest areas of concern in the present credit boom. The code tells members simply to "take particular care."

Similar criticism can be made about the procedure for checking the borrower's credit. The original intention seems to have been to require lenders to search a credit reference agency. However, the code dilutes this requirement



Ray Hazlehurst... relying on the public

by saying that, in deciding whether to consult such an agency, lenders may look at the "circumstances of the application"—whatever that means.

Then, there are a series of clauses which have the sting removed from them by tagging the phrase "where appropriate" on the end. Lenders are supposed to tell customers about the availability of credit protection insurance, supply information to credit reference agencies, and limit the period of a loan to the life of the asset being financed; but they are supposed to do only these things where appropriate.

This is not to say that the code does not have its good elements. One is the insistence that any member advertising "secured" loans makes it clear that the loan is being secured on the borrower's home. Consumers sometimes think "secured" means a loan is very safe, not understanding that their home is at risk.

Even this clause does not go far enough, though. A simpler and clearer way of protecting the consumer would have been to insist that all advertisements

But it is intended to be a prescription, not just a description—and for that it needs teeth.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the director-general of Fair Trading, who has given the code his stamp of approval, is not worried by this impression. He says the association should enforce the spirit of the code, not the letter.

And Ray Hazlehurst, the association's chairman, is certainly fully in favour of the spirit and concerned that people should not fall into debt when it is avoidable. The problem is that the association has no effective mechanism for enforcing it.

Hazlehurst says the association will not go out and make spot checks. Instead, it will rely on complaints from the public, which it will then pass on to the finance houses concerned.

This means that if the code is going to lead to an improvement in lending practices, consumers and their representatives—Citizens Advice Bureau, money advice centres and the like—are going to need to make a huge task of whatever they think it is being broken.

Mortgage without proof

BUYERS OF new houses or flats are being offered a novel mortgage deal under which they have to provide no proof of income, but still pay only an interest rate of 9.5 per cent.

The Moneymaster Gold Scheme from Moneycentre, a London-based financial adviser, strikes a new note in that the home loan essentially is secured on the property rather than the person. The loan can be transferred to the new owner of a property if sold and there are no early repayment penalties.

There are two restrictions. The minimum loan is £100,000, although there is no maximum, and the maximum advance must not exceed 90 per cent of the purchase price or valuation. Unusually these days, the mortgage is repayment of capital and interest only; no payment or pension is available.

The interest rate charged is linked to the Libor (London Interbank Offered Rate) three months forward rate, with a premium added of only 0.625 per cent. It is revised every three months, but the premium remains unchanged.

The property can be let, so the scheme is particularly suitable for overseas purchasers or professional or business people.

Moneycentre, of 22 Gaysford Street, London, SW1 0JF, 01-799.

1477 charges an arrangement fee of 1 per cent on amounts up to £500,000, 0.75 up to £1m, and 0.5 above £1m. However, it also offers conveyancing by its panel solicitors for only £115 on a property of any price.

Meanwhile, the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society has widened the scope of its "interest only" mortgages, aimed particularly at home owners who have retired. These loans are now available on up to 75 per cent of the property value instead of the previous maximum of 50 per cent.

Under the scheme, only the interest—now 12.5 per cent—is paid each month and the capital borrowed is repayable when the property is sold or from the borrower's estate on death.

It is available either for the purchase of a new home or to make repairs or improvements to an existing property. You can also use it to buy an annuity which would cover the interest on the loan and provide the home-owner with extra income.

A NEW offshore bank account, based in the Isle of Man, is being introduced on Monday by a local subsidiary of Robert Fleming, the London merchant bank.

The Maxx High Interest Bank

Trust in the Far East

Christine Stopp on how the Japanese have been outstripped

OVER THE PAST year the Far East unit trust sector has outstripped the Japanese with an average increase of 49.5 per cent, almost twice the 23.4 per cent of the Japanese trusts.

The Far East sector is a mixed bag, containing trusts which offer a number of different investment aims. Broadly speaking there are two main types: the first is the one-stop investment; the second is the broad spread excluding Japan. Between the two there are various permutations, with many trusts limiting their exposure to Japan without actually excluding the Tokyo market completely.

The top five trusts have been heavily weighted in Hong Kong, to the total or near exclusion of Japan. The top two, Waverley Pacific Basin

and Fidelity South East Asia, also had a strong percentage in Australia. Sun Life Far East Growth was one trust which did well in the sector with a 39 per cent weighting in Japan.

The Waverley Trust has "no geographical restrictions." The group has a strong reputation as a Japanese specialist but is "not wedded to that market by any means" according to Peter Bucher, investment manager. The trust currently has a relatively small Japanese exposure concentrated on domestic stocks.

Fidelity, Save & Prosper and County all exclude Japan as a matter of policy. The Fidelity Asia Growth trust, which includes Japan in its portfolio, "tends to get overexposed" and investors need help in choosing among the Pacific market trusts.

S & P has two Japan specialist trusts but their SE Asia Growth fund has been affected by over-exposure to Japan in recent months, with 7 per cent of the portfolio there until March.

Telling all

David Shriver on how the Stock Exchange is dispelling the mystique of share dealings

THE STOCK EXCHANGE has launched a scheme aimed at informing the private investor, especially those dabbling in shares for the first time, about the workings of the market.

Sir Nicholas Goddison, chairman of the International Stock Exchange, said that he hoped the Stock Exchange Investors Club would help dispel the mystique surrounding share ownership. "Direct investment in stocks and shares is not a preserve of the privileged few," he said.

With privatisation issues greatly increasing the number of small investors, Goddison feels that there is a strong need for this kind of service. "There are many organisations which represent large institutional shareholders," he said. "I hope that this club can begin to fulfil the same function for individual investors."

The club will offer a quarterly newsletter to keep members in touch with what is going on in the market. It describes different types of investment, and gives news about changes and innovations in the market.

It will also arrange special events for members. These will include informal "investment evenings" where members can meet stockbrokers and discuss investment experiences, along with rather more formal lectures and seminars on specialised subjects.

The annual subscription rate of £15 (£12.50 if you join before September 30) entitles you to an information pack covering many aspects of the Exchange, as well as a free club cardholder and pen.

A growing number of people are visiting the Exchange itself. In spite of the much reduced activity on the trading floor, and the visitors' gallery has been refurbished.

There is now a visitors' information centre where you can discuss procedures for buying and selling shares and learn more about what the Exchange does.

There are also a variety of new computer games and electronic information systems which introduce you to the world of share issues, trading and 24-hour global markets.

To back up the message that shareholding is not just for the sophisticated, the Exchange has invented a cartoon character, the "Investor Cat," who explains how to buy stocks and shares. His message: "Don't nest it... invest it."

FAR EASTERN TRUSTS: GEOGRAPHICAL WEIGHTINGS

	Japan	HK	Singapore	Aust	US
	%	%	%	%	%
Waverley Pac Basin (1)	29	39	—	—	—
Fidelity SE Asia (2)	—	42	—	34	—
S&P SEA Growth (3)	—	49	44	—	—
Thornett Tiger (4)	—	31	35	—	—
County SEA Growth (5)	—	35	—	—	—
M&G FE & Gen (11)	5	50	—	15	—
Sun Life FE Growth (14)	39	30	—	—	—
Thornett Pac. Tech. (57)	35	—	—	—	48
F&C Far Eastern (60)	63	20	—	—	—

(Figure in brackets is OPAL one-year sector ranking at July 1. Asterisks indicate markets where funds do not invest as a matter of policy).

Hong Kong. County has previously had both Japan and the other Far Eastern markets within one portfolio but found it hard to achieve performance with this combination.

M & G also offers two specialist Japan assets. The brief on its Far Eastern and General Trust includes Japan but to a maximum of 15 per cent.

Sun Life says its trust is "for the smaller investor, wanting a position in the Far East." It does not, therefore, exclude Japan, and has been up to 70 per cent invested there. This objective is similar to that of F&C, who say the performance of their trust has been affected by over-exposure to Japan in recent months, with 7 per cent of the portfolio there until March.

Perhaps the conclusion to draw from all this is that the Far East trusts should be viewed as a group of sub-

sectors, and investors should be clear on whether the trust of their choice matches their own investment objectives.

At the extremes, geographical objectives obviously affect performance, and the sector may tend to divide into performance strata related to investment policy.

But how of old investors now regard the Far East apart from Japan? Most managers tended to be wary of Japan, and generally optimistic about the other Far Eastern markets, though County investment director Peter Holland sounded a note of caution.

"If I was putting together a portfolio today," he said, "I would include South East Asia, though not as a core holding, because of the risks involved. There will be times when you should be out of these markets. In spite of recent good performance, this is still a politically very young and unstable area."

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Certainty for options

The election result has confirmed the value of a big tax scheme for executives, writes David Cohen

APPROVED SHARE option schemes have become one of the executive's favourite perks since they were introduced in 1984. But they were overshadowed by two key factors which threatened the tax advantages that made them so popular. During the past two months, however, both these threats have been swept away.

One threat was the outcome of the general election. The Labour Party has never made any secret of its opposition to tax-privileged executive option schemes and it was feared that, if a Labour government was elected, certain tax privileges introduced in 1984, which have yet to be enjoyed, might be cancelled.

The great attraction of the approved scheme is that it gives option-holders a shelter from income tax. Before 1984, any gain realised on the exercise of a share option granted by company to staff was subject to income tax at the employee's top rate.

The 1984 scheme scrapped the liability to income tax, although not capital gains tax. However, one condition

was that the option must not be exercised before a minimum of three and a maximum of 10 years from the date on which it was granted.

It was not possible for any scheme to be approved by the Inland Revenue before August 1984 at the earliest. This meant that nobody was in a position to make an income tax-free exercise before the general election; hence the uncertainty.

When Labour was returned to power in 1974, it promptly scrapped the Heath Government's approved scheme. Employees with unexercised options at that time were charged income tax later when they did exercise them. No doubt the same fate would have been in store for the class of '84 if Neil Kinnock had become prime minister.

Mrs Thatcher's victory not only removes uncertainty for existing shareholders. It also means that, for the first time, an approved option scheme can be taken up with the reasonable expectation that the tax rules will stay constant throughout the option's life-span.

Politics aside, the other major shadow overhanging approved options has been the rash of company takeovers and mergers.

Until now, option-holders in a company which has been taken over have faced an

unenviable choice between abandoning their options altogether or exercising them early before the minimum three-year period, becoming liable for income tax on the gain.

Recognising the unfairness of this, the Chancellor announced in this year's Budget that option-holders in a company being taken over would be allowed to swap existing options for equivalent new ones in the acquiring company.

The effect of the concession is that the tax rules are applied to the replacement option as if it were simply a continuation of the original.

Suppose, for example, that Mr X was granted an option for shares in Oldco plc in November 1984. In January 1989, Oldco is taken over by Newco. Employees of Oldco are offered the opportunity by Newco to swap their options in Oldco for options in Newco shares. Mr X accepts this offer.

Then, provided Mr X defers the exercise of his new option until November 1989, he will avoid having to pay income tax on the profits made. This is because the three-year minimum period is calculated from the date of the original grant. Although this dispenses of the income tax problem in an option swap, the Chancellor's original proposals failed to allow for the possibility that the option exchange might trigger a liability to pay capital gains tax.



This omission was pointed out while the Finance Bill was being considered, and the Bill was amended to exempt the employee from any theoretical CGT charge that might arise from the exchange of options. However, this still left a potential CGT exposure for the company taking over, and this is to be dealt with in the second Finance Bill now going through Parliament.

David Shriver charts the latest development in cashless shopping

Electronic debit will do nicely

THE MOVE towards a cashless society was taken a step further this week with the publication of proposals for paying your shopping bills electronically.

The proposals, put forward in a consultative document, are designed to ensure that there is sufficient competition between the financial institutions offering these services in the hope that the consumer will gain from at least some of the cost-saving benefits on offer.

But the key question is— who is really going to benefit most from the development of EFTPOS (electronic funds transfer at point of sale)? The banks? The retailers? The consumers?

The banks want to reduce the huge amount of paperwork caused by cheques and at the same time to limit fraud, preferring to get rid of cheques altogether and save money on the time and cost involved in processing them.

The retailers, despite their recent opposition to Barclays' "Connect" debit card, welcome computerisation which will make accounting and stock-keeping procedures much easier.

For the consumer, however, the benefits are not quite so clear. The lifting of the £50 limit imposed by a cheque guarantee card is a plus point. Paying electronically, with the amount deducted from your bank account, also means you can dispense with bulky cheque books.

However, those employing credit cards for shopping may prefer to keep on using them since they would lose the extended period for payment that credit cards provide. With electronic payments, the money is debited immediately from the customer's account.

So, if consumers are to be persuaded to change from credit to debit cards, some sort of encouragement might be necessary. This could come in the form of price reductions to compensate for the loss of this "grace period."

Martin Smith, of the National Consumer Council, predicts "slow and painful progress" before cashless shopping is accepted. Although Smith sees quicker handling of transactions as a bonus, he doubts how much benefit will pass on to the consumer.

The innate conservatism of the British public will be a major obstacle to technological advance, he believes. But he adds that "ATMs (automated teller machines) are unambiguously the success story of the day, and no one in 1987 could have predicted that today people

paying. There is also the simple confusion over the plethora of store cards, charge cards, credit cards and direct debit cards now on the market.

Meanwhile, progress made by EFTPOS UK Ltd, the joint company set up by the 12 clearing banks to sort out how costs should be shared with the retail industry, means that the creation of a nationwide scheme becomes a distinct possibility in the near future.

Whether these moves succeed depends to a great extent on the ability of the banks and the retailers to convince the public that cashless shopping has definite advantages.

"Business Service Specification for the EFTPOS UK financial service—public consultation document." EFTPOS UK, 32 City Rd, London EC1Y 1AA. Free.

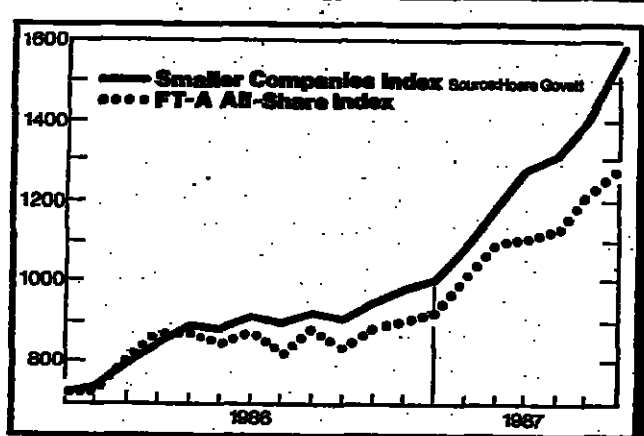
Guide to unit trusts

THE RECENT rapid expansion in the number of unit trusts, to more than 1,000 funds, means there is a bewildering choice for investors. So, unless you rely on expert advice which might not be entirely unbiased, what do you look for when choosing a unit trust?

Academics John Matatko and Dr David Stafford, both lecturers at Essex University, have developed their own system to evaluate the performance of every unit trust with a net value of more than £15m.

It is explained in a new quarterly finance magazine, *Unit Trust Investor*, published under the imprint of the Stock Exchange Press.

The magazine, priced at £1.25, provides basic information about unit trusts as well as measuring their individual performance. There are three indicators covering aggressiveness, volatility and performance, but perhaps the most telling measurement is how individual funds have performed against the comparable stock market index.



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

SMALLER companies continue to provide a better return for investors, according to the latest survey by London stockbroker Hoare Govett. In the first half of the year, the total return on the Hoare Govett smaller companies index rose by 66 per cent, 16 per cent more than the rise in the Financial Times Actuaries All-Share Index.

Hoare Govett's smaller companies index, which was launched in February, is made up of 1,266 companies which at the beginning of the year represented the bottom 10 per cent by value of the main share market. It included all companies valued at £100m or less.

The survey shows that the share prices of smaller companies were particularly rewarding in June, when they rose by 11.3 per cent compared with an increase of 5.4 per cent in the FT-A All-Share Index.

John Houltham of Hoare

Govett says there is ample evidence that, over the longer term, the smaller company sector will continue to outperform leading stocks.

He notes that many fund managers who traditionally have dismissed smaller companies as being irrelevant to performance have changed their minds and admit that there has been a spike of unit trusts launched to invest in smaller companies.

Another London stockbroker, Phillips & Drew, announced this week it has set up a new type of fund to exploit the above-average investment returns achieved by smaller companies in the UK over the past 30 years. The fund does not select individual companies; instead it invests indiscriminately in 215 smaller stocks that make up 5 per cent of the total capitalisation of the FT-A All-Share Index.

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THE WORLD'S NO 1

FINANCE & THE FAMILY

John Edwards on a city—and a group—that are growing fast

The Edinburgh experience

SASSENACHS MUST wonder why so many successful investment and insurance companies are to be found in Scotland.

A visit to Edinburgh quickly shows why people like working in that elegant city. But why should it be the second most important financial centre in Europe—bearing in mind Scotland's relatively small population, the high unemployment and the lack of special fiscal incentives?

Is it something in the water, or is it just traditional caution with money which makes investors trust Scottish companies to look after them well?

Whatever the answer there is no doubt that Scottish companies have made the most of the explosion in financial services and investment during the past 10 years or so.

One group that has done particularly well is Edinburgh Fund Managers, whose shares last moved up from the Unlisted Securities Market to a full listing on the London Stock Exchange.

The decision to go for a full listing marks the company's determination to change its image as a small investment boutique that was especially good in the Japanese market.

The group has come a long way since it was formed in 1969 to take over the management of American Trust (formed in 1902) which had net assets of some £33m. By 1983 the value

of funds under management had grown to £430m, and now it is close to £1bn.

To many people's surprise the group's pension division was recently appointed joint manager of the Hounslow Borough Superannuation Fund in the face of severe competition. The business of managing discretionary funds is growing fast and is expected soon to exceed the traditional investment trust business.

EFM is also making its mark in the unit trust industry. It is now the 41st biggest unit trust group, with funds under management topping £230m. Several of its 10 trusts, at varying times, top the performance league table in their respective sectors.

Not surprisingly, in view of its past reputation, one of the top performers is its Tokyo Fund, but it has achieved equally good returns over a five-year period with its UK Capital and High Distribution funds.

When General Accident, the sleeping giant of the insurance industry, took over the group, it decided to introduce unit-linked products, it turned to EFM to

EFM UNIT TRUSTS (OFFER TO OFFER INCOME REINVESTED)		1982	1983	1984	1985	1986 5 years*
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Capital (from 8/82)	56.8	34.6	27.0	28.7	46.3	244.5
Growth & Income	31.9	23.8	25.1	21.2	34.3	187.9
High Distribution	26.8	29.2	29.2	17.1	36.5	214.7
American	25.3	22.1	4.9	-6.8	12.1	60.8
EuroFund (from 2/86)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22.5	15.2
International	6.2	34.5	25.6	-1.9	31.3	119.0
Resources (from 6/83)	N/A	12.8	-1.4	-22.2	30.0	8.5
Tokyo	21.2	79.9	19.2	-0.1	53.9	282.7
Smaller Japanese Cos. (from 1/85)	N/A	N/A	N/A	-1.2	47.8	37.3

* Cumulative return for five years on an offer-to-bid basis

manage the funds. It also took a 15 per cent stake in the company acquired from Laslife Association of Scotland.

To make doubly sure General Accident also bought a 15 per cent stake in American Trust, which has 54 per cent of the EFM equity.

With these holdings, and EFM executives and staff owning another 16 per cent, there is a limited amount (15 per cent) available to outside shareholders. So trading activity in

the stock is restricted by an absence of sellers.

Nevertheless, EFM believes a full listing will help its plans for expansion into new areas, especially overseas. It already has links with companies in the US, Australia and Holland, but it wants to build up an international network.

A full listing, with better quality paper, will obviously help in negotiating joint ventures for overseas markets. One of the great advantages

of being based in Edinburgh is that it is much easier to keep an investment team together which is one of the key ingredients of success.

So far not many of the highly successful Scottish fund managers have been lured by the high salaries paid in London. Perhaps they are too cautious or simply enjoy the less frantic Edinburgh life-style. EFM has lost only a few staff since the Big Bang and has no trouble in finding bright trainees to supplement the experienced and established investment team.

Since the bulk of its unit trust business is done via intermediaries, a good investment track record has to be maintained if the group is to continue expanding. It has, though, made some wrong decisions.

Arriving late in Europe, with a fund that invested 40 per cent in bonds, was a mistake. This is now being rectified with the whole portfolio being turned into equities.

Badly timed hedging and a misjudgment of the dollar and yen movements in 1985 also damaged EFM's international funds. At one stage it was

been with BAA for less than three years.

With so many new "top people" one of two things could well happen. The new management will feel it has to perform far better than its predecessor and will produce some innovative ideas for dramatically increasing profits; or it will take some time to settle in, perhaps with some "personality clashes," and profits will be much the same as in previous years.

BAA proves spectacularly profitable. The new management will form a consortium to build a new, large, highly-efficient and attractive airport in, say, Yorkshire or Humberside to take away the millions of passengers in the north and Midlands who would otherwise have to travel to London for their international flights.

This could do much to revitalise that area of Britain as well as provide some proper competition, as the privatised BAA has not been given a monopoly to run all the airports in Britain.

Kevin Goldstein-Jackson

Tradition that dies hard

Alex Nicoll explains why an older kind of option refuses to be displaced

NOT MUCH that goes on at the post-Big Bang London Stock Exchange could be described as traditional. Yet the market in traditional options, in existence since the 17th century, stubbornly refuses to be displaced.

Traditional options need to be distinguished straight away from the more modern business of traded options, in which the Stock Exchange also operates a rapidly growing market.

The traditional variety are dealt in a more arcane world, peopled by stalwarts who talk of "giving for the put" or "taking for the call," "doubles" and "declarations."

Douglas Walford, a director of Barclays de Zoete Wedd UK Equities, has been dealing traditional options since 1958, when the market was brought back after being suspended during the Second World War. On the first morning, he was a "blue button." By the afternoon, when his superiors realised how much work was involved, he had become a fully-fledged trader.

In 1968, he was joined by Richard Rapaport, now also a director at the same firm. They are one of three teams which have each moved several times over the years—the others are now at Smith Brothers and Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore. The three firms are the only ones to act effectively as market makers, but many brokers, especially those which specialise in private client business, are willing to take orders for traditional options.

Walford and Rapaport, anxious to shed light on a business which they see as offering greater scope than traded options, have published a guide which puts in obscure language into easily understandable English.

The basic principles are the same as for any kind of option. The holder of a "call" option has the right to buy underlying securities at a given "striking" price, and the holder of a "put" has the right to sell securities. The sellers or "writers" of the options must deliver or receive the securities

if the holder decides to "exercise" the option.

Options in general offer the buyer, the ability to make large speculative profits—or to protect their stock market portfolios—with potential losses limited to the premium or price paid for the option.

In some respects, the traditional market offers more flexibility. Whereas traded options are available only in selected "stocks," traditional options can be written on virtually any UK equity and, at least in theory, on foreign stocks as well.

Traded options come in standardisation lots—which can be dealt only in multiples—while traditional options can be written for very small or very large amounts. Traditional options provide a third alternative to the call and put: the ability to do either if you buy a "put and call," or "double."

The price for this greater scope is reduced flexibility in some other aspects. Traded options, as the name implies, can be traded, but traditional options cannot. Traded options can be exercised at any time during their life, while traditional options, with a life of about three months, can be exercised on the one Declaration Day in each fortnightly Stock Exchange account period.

Traded options come with a range of striking prices, while traditional options, simply the market price at the time the bargain is struck.

Private punters are more likely to be on the buy side—in traditional terminology, the "givers." Institutions wanting to make a little extra premium income on their portfolio are more likely to be writers, or, in this market, the "takers."

Options—also known over the centuries as "time bargains" and "refusals"—have been banned or suspended at various times. But as Walford observes, "they always seem to come back." With traded options expanding into more and more stocks, there could be a reduced role for the traditional variety. As yet, however, as the daily coverage in this newspaper shows, they are still a live if quaint feature of the London markets.

* "A Guide to Traditional Options." Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities.

Dangerous debts

DIARY OF A PRIVATE INVESTOR

Later that month, she received a Midland circular outlining its proposals for full equity ownership of the US Crocker Bank. The circular claimed that such ownership would help to "maintain the standing of the Midland group in the world's financial markets."

While the circular mentioned the problems with Crocker's loans to Californian farmers and property developers, it gave little warning of the problems it might face with its loans to Latin American countries. Yet it did reveal that "advances to foreign borrowers rose from US\$1.5bn to \$3.7bn" between December 31, 1979, and December 31, 1982.

We were concerned about this foreign loan exposure and with the performance of Midland itself, so in August 1985 my wife sold half her Midland holding for 390p a share and disposed of the remaining half for 438p in November that year.

Now, with Midland finally admitting the full extent of its problems, its shares are over 600p. Why?

When Midland eventually sold Crocker Bank to Wells Fargo, it retained responsibility for \$3.1bn of Crocker's loans to Latin American countries as well as a number of its other poor loans.

Midland is now providing \$1.9bn against Third World debts, having a rights issue at

300p on a one-for-one basis to raise £700m, and is selling off three of its banking groups.

Personally, I would have thought that 300p was about the right level for all Midland shares. But then, I'm only a private investor using my own money. I am not an institutional investor using other people's money and concerned with having a "proper weighting" in bank shares.

So long as institutions take this attitude, banking shares will remain high.

Having recently spent two weeks in Brazil, I am even more convinced that buying shares in banks with large outstanding loans to that country is dangerous. Brazil owes well over \$100bn to other countries and some of this money appears to have been wasted on grandiose (and economically useless) projects. I cannot see Brazil ever being able to repay its debts.

Of particular interest to anyone planning a trip to Brazil is that there is a thriving

black market in foreign currency. It is far better to take US or UK currency than travellers cheques, which can be exchanged only at banks and hotels at considerably less than the black market currency rate. You can always keep spare cash locked away in the hotel safe and, by ignoring travellers cheques, you also save on commission charges.

MY WIFE and I have applied for a modest number of shares in BAA. The issue is likely to be over-subscribed, and we could end up either with a much-reduced shareholding or no shares at all. Although the shares are likely to attract a reasonable premium, if we received only a few shares the profit would not cover the bank interest lost on a large application.

There are also many other interesting investment opportunities now available where the potential rewards are greater in the medium term



than BAA.

Reading the BAA prospectus, I was somewhat surprised by the number of directors and senior staff who have joined the company only recently. Jeremy Marshall (the chief executive) joined this year, and William Shaw (group finance director) joined in 1986.

Of the 10 main board directors, seven joined BAA less than three years ago; and five of the 17 listed members of "senior management" have

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Paul Michael	25p	28p	+12%
Holmes	10p	43p	+330%
Campani Ltd	20p	107p	+535%

Prices as at November 1986—includes adjustments for rights, splits etc., but dividends not included.

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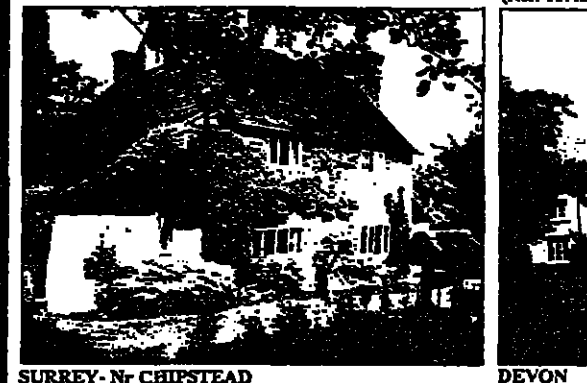
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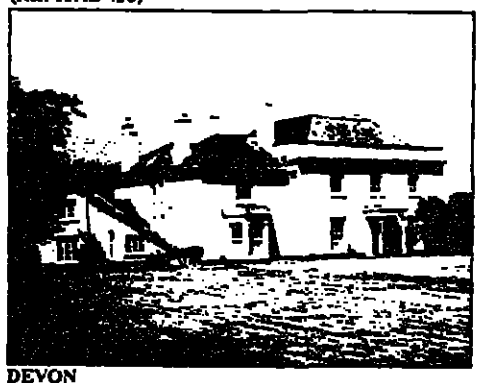
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Saleroom

Driving bargains

Antony Thorncroft goes round the sales of golfing memorabilia

THE FACT that the world of golf has gathered this week at Muirfield for the Open has not been lost on the salerooms. Christie's was busy selling golf memorabilia in Glasgow on Wednesday, and Phillips followed on in Edinburgh the next day. Sotheby's weighs in on Tuesday in London.

The auction houses' conviction that there is an insatiable market for antique golf clubs and balls, for portraits of golfing greats and for mementoes of the game, is not completely shared by its addicts. There have been some extraordinary prices paid for golf artifacts—Sotheby's holds the record for a club with a price of £12,500 for a late 18th-century wood—but in general golfers seem to prefer getting out on the links and hitting the ball to polishing up their collections.

Prices for the less-than-amazing have not moved much in recent years, and what interest there is stems from the US and Japan, where the queues to get a round are so long that there is plenty of time to dwell on the history of the game.

Christie's had the prize item—nine golf clubs, made of wood, by John Jackson of Perth around 1830 for the Duke of Atholl at Blair Castle. The Duke does not seem to have pursued his interest; the set is unused and was found recently in an umbrella stand in the attic of the castle. They sold for £51,350, with one of the head long nose putter with hickory shaft, making the top price of £6,000. It will go into the British Golf Museum which is being started at the Royal and Ancient, St Andrews.

The blasé attitude of golfers to their past was reflected in two early iron golf clubs, made by the local blacksmith around 1820, which were also found in the Duke of Atholl's attic. Though expected to sell for £7,000 each they found new homes at £5,500 and £4,620. On the other hand one of the noble golf balls, filled with feathers

and made around 1830 by John & William Gourlay, the most distinguished makers, did well at £2,090.

While the impedimenta of golf fails to be fully appreciated, books and pictures on the subject have a wider appeal. Londoner R. W. M. Addison never wielded a club in his life but his collection of books did amazingly well at Christie's, in particular "The Maiden," a golfing epic by Webster Glynes, published in 1893. The saleroom placed a modest estimate of £50-£120 on this light-hearted tale but two keen collectors bid it up to £2,800.

Its rarity enhanced its value. It was the same story at Phillips the next day when a little booklet, "Pen and Pencil Sketches of the Game of Golf," sold for £3,360, almost double the forecast. It is a slim volume, published in 1880, and written by George Alkman, but it was previously unknown and so much desired. "Golfiana, or Niceties connected with the Game of Golf" written in 1842 by George Carnegie, dealing with the vagaries of golfers at St Andrews in those early days, also did well at £6,100.

There was a major American presence at both auctions, with the Old St Andrew's Gallery of St Andrews, acquiring many items for export abroad. The British Golf Museum was also active. Undoubtedly some of the finest collections of golfiana are locked up inside club houses, admired by members but unseen by the public. If they were ever to be liquidated the market could soon be flooded. So far professional golfers seem immune to the history of the game but the coincidence of the three sales could stimulate new buyers.

Sotheby's decided against holding its auction in Scotland. Past experience has been depressing and it thinks it is better to get the golf out of the way first. It is confident that it is offering at least two lots which will get the fanatics drooling.

One is a second edition of



Detail from illustration on silver and enamel golfing cigarette case, made in Birmingham in 1911

Thomas Mathieson's "heroic" comic poem "The Golf" first published in 1748. Phillips secured £17,000 for a copy in 1986 and although this version, which turned up in a job lot of books, carries a top estimate of £12,000, it could do much better. It is odd to think that the work was unknown until very recently and now this is the third copy to appear on the market in quick succession. The other prize lot at Sotheby's has a similar background. It is a portrait of "Old Tom" Morris, the Father of Golf, painted by the respected artist William G. Mackenzie in 1904, two years before Old Tom holed out. It appeared recently at a country auction where it

changed hands for a few hundred pounds because the venerable figure was not recognised as the greatest golfer of his age and three times winner of the Open. Once again bids of up to £12,000 will be needed. Sotheby's auction is modest in size, mainly because it reckons to lose money on lots with a value below £200 and most golf items still cost less than this at auction. But it does stretch itself if a good name is involved. The Duke of Windsor's golf score device of around 1830 may be made of bakelite, and only 3 1/2 in diameter, but it does carry the Prince's name. A top estimate of £200 seems cautious, given the excessive prices paid for

Windsor memorabilia at the Duchess of Windsor auction in Geneva in April.

Sotheby's has padded its auction out with 20-odd lots relating to cricket, a game with a much more fanatical following, but one which Phillips and Christie's have dominated until now. The bat with which R. E. Foster made 287 against Australia in 1903 in his first Test is on offer for around £600, and a W. G. Grace bat, commemorating a century of centuries, is offered at £1,000. But it has been golf's week and there are signs that nostalgia for the game is extending beyond the 19th hole.

Collecting

Early Moderns

SILVER END, near Witham in Essex, is not on the ordinary tourist route—which is perhaps a pity. For here, hidden away in a quiet corner, is Britain's earliest and most extensive practical manifestation of the International Modern Movement in architecture.

Today, Silver End seems lost in time, a relic from the era of industrial Utopianism which created the garden village. Here, in 1926-27, the Crittall family, pioneers of standard steel-framed windows, established an environment for their employees. Instead of rustic mock Tudor, the Crittalls settled for 1920s modern and engaged architect Thomas Talbot to design functional, flat-roofed, steel-windowed, concrete-walled cottages, ranked like an Expressionist stage setting. At one end of the main street is a kind of circus, at the other, a larger house than the rest, impressively called "Le Chateau" and probably intended for the factory manager.

The making of Silver End was generally credited to F. E. Crittall, the first Lord Brantree and founder of the firm; but it seems likely that the major influence was his son, W. F. Crittall. Something of the work and personality of this forgotten patron of modern art and design comes to light with the auction, on July 22 of the contents of New Farm, Great Winton, Great Dunmow, Essex, a modernist house which was built under his direction in 1934.

Crittall acquired his love for art at the St John's Wood Art School, in north London. His ambitions to be a painter were frustrated when his father insisted he entered the family business. His energies were soon diverted to the technical and design problems of metal windows, in which he became an expert. As a member of the Design and Industries Association, he was associated with the foremost designers of the day.

The collections at New Farm reflect the tastes of a design enthusiast of the 20s and 30s. Alongside old English Staffordshire and Delftware and Oriental peasant ceramics are works of modern artist potters

like Michael Cardew and Katharine Playdell-Bouverie; and the honest virtues of 17th-century oak and Georgian mahogany are juxtaposed with a chrome swivel stool by Le Corbusier, said to have been presented to the Crittalls by the designer himself. On the floors, antique Oriental rugs lay side by side with jazz modern 20s carpets by Marion Dorn.

The paintings include works by E. Ravilison and Sir George Clausen, who was a long-time friend of Crittall and went with him on painting expeditions to Walberswick on the Suffolk coast where they also met the writer A. E. Coppard, who figures largely in the New Farm library.

The most intriguing aspect of Crittall, however, is his work as amateur furniture designer, a modest contemporary and follower of Gordon Russell and Ernest Gimson. The furniture he planned was made for him by E. W. Beckwith, the local cabinet-maker and wood-carver from the nearby village of Coggeshall.

The results of their collaboration might not merit a prominent place in a museum of 20th-century design—there seems to have been a good sense of proportion but a weakness for over-elaboration—but it is fascinating as one man's comprehensive plan for the furnishing of his home. It is a pity there is no Silver End museum to preserve these striking period pieces in 20s modern style.

Phillips, which is holding the New Farm auction, is estimating the furniture modestly. An inventive centre table with geometric motifs is reckoned at £1,000-£1,500, and a handsome set of 14 dining chairs of classic rail-back form at £2,000-£3,000. These, as well as some of the minor items, could be interesting speculations for an adventurous collector of 20th-century furniture.

The collection is very much the man: on the same day as Phillips auctions the contents of New Farm on the premises, Christie's is selling the library of an obscure Victorian architect, James O'Byrne (1835-1987), which has miraculously remained intact since his death.

Janet Marsh

Robin Lane Fox in praise of orange blossom

Scent from heaven

EVERY July I think it, but this year I have done it: I need to plant more Philadelphus.

No-one I hope is unaware of this exquisite shrub—the one with the white flowers and the scent which ranges from tangerines through orange blossom (its popular name) to the fragrance of roses. On summer evenings it is divine and an intimation of a more perfect world. As the air cools, the scent strengthens and the white flowers stand out in the half light. A scented Philadelphus is the best companion for late walks home or slow garden strolls after dark.

This year my plan has been to have Philadelphus hedges. They are intended to be more of a Mock Orange Walk than a Philadelphus barrier; they are spaced quite generously, and are supposed to touch branches in an informal avenue which I need not visit during its bare winter. The intervals of 6 ft look generous now between the young bundles of twigs but I fear they will be colliding in the 1990s. If so, the Mock Orange will have to be pruned immediately after flowering.

Next year's flowers come on the growth which is made in the rest of this season. Pruning in springtime is wrong; if you prune at all, the job must be done in the next fortnight.

I have one or two particular Philadelphus preferences: the first concerns depth of planting. The smaller, bushier varieties must be set quite deeply in the earth. Deep planting encourages the thicket of stems which they like to send up from ground level. They make a better shape which needs less pruning.

My other preference concerns the best varieties for particular purposes. I cannot see the point of varieties which have no scent, but some of them are misnamed because they flower so freely. The worst offenders are Brachybotrys and Burfordensis, two magnificent flowerers which have no small at all. I have grown them both and will not repeat the error. Double-flowered forms are

also a puzzle. Much the most popular is Virginal, which I used to plant, though without much confidence in its good manners.

It becomes lanky with age and sometimes can be shy about flowering. In a bad mood it throws up masses of shoots and heavily dark green leaves at the back of a mixed border, but shows only a slight hint of double-white flowers. Pruning does not improve its contribution, and so I have gone off Virginal and changed to a new American alternative.

Microphyllus is smaller in height than flower and is not such a rapid grower. Where Sybille is too large, I rate it second best. It smells strongly of sweet pineapple.

In such spaces you should really try the wonderful Sybille, which grows to four feet high and wide and is like a marvelous Belle Etoile on a smaller scale. It will grow at the top of a low dry wall, in paving or on a terrace, but it really does reach four feet.

Admittedly it is small, flowered, but it is the answer gardeners who say they have no room for another shrub. They can try Coronarius by the bushes where its scent will be a blessing.

As for the connoisseurs, they too have a problem, but I think they might prefer a less familiar Orange Blossom called Innocence. Hopleys of Much Hadham sell it and it develops gradually into an Orange Blossom six feet high, with creamy white markings on its leaves and heavily scented white flowers.

Innocence is not the fashionable white variegated form which goes brown at the tips in a dry place or a park apart. Its flowers are more conspicuous and its habit is more elegant. Whereas Coronarius starts the season in early June, Innocence prolongs it into late July. With this knowledge you can choose the one which is heavenly family over the two best months of the year.



Gardening

Arthur Hellyer on the mysteries of plant breeding

Thoroughbred strains

FOR MANY people plant breeders are like wizards who produce marvelous new varieties from very ordinary material. Who could have imagined that the enormously varied dahlias we grow today could have emerged from a handful of wild plants with rather undistinguished flowers bearing a single circle of petals in shades of pink, red and purple?

Or that the gigantic double-flowered begonias which attract so much admiration at summer flower shows could be the offspring of parents with quite small flowers? Or that the towering delphiniums we have come to take for granted have probably all descended from one original parent with very unspectacular flower spikes?

The answer to all these and many similar questions is that usually these are lost. Now these results, not even the breeders. All worked with chance as a large factor, growing different species or varieties side by side in the hope that insects or wind might cross-pollinate some of them, or trying to make pollination a little more likely by transferring pollen manually from one flower to another.

Some of this was wasted effort, at least with true species, for nature has taken care to prevent stable plants from being unsettled by mongrel alliances. Yet just occasionally this incompatibility would be broken. Such unexpected breakdowns have led to the development of dahlias, begonias, roses, gladioli, chrysanthemums and orchids.

More often things have advanced with the chance mutations that plants frequently produce. Usually these are lost almost at once since they provide no advantage in the struggle for existence, but they may be seized on by sharp-eyed gardeners who realize their potential garden merit. Then pains are taken to ensure that mutants, or sports, are preserved and used for further development.

This was true of the Spencer sweet peas with their large, wavy-petalled flowers, which appeared unsought, in the early years of this century, in at least two places at about the same time. They were noted, isolated, and preserved from contamination with pollen from normal, plain-petalled sweet peas. Now almost all the varieties we grow are of the Spencer type.

It was almost certainly a natural mutation of this kind which gave George Russell the first lupin with widely expanded keel petals, which in turn gave the whole flower-spoke a much more open appearance. I believe that, on his allotment in York, where the original breeding was done, he had planted other lupin species with the garden varieties derived from *Lupinus polyphyllos*. He believed, I'm sure, it was cross-pollination between these that accounted for his success. But I have never seen any evidence to convince me he was



The lupin: bred by George Russell in York

right. Seed saved from Russell lupins either produces more seedlings of the Russell type or seedlings that revert to the old *L. polyphyllos* flower-form with folded keel petals.

What impresses me most, looking back at the major flower breeding programmes over the past 150 years, is how quickly plateaus of excellence were attained, after which there were only small advances. Both herbaceous phloxes and peonies were already fully developed by the time I came into gardening in the early 1920s. Delphiniums reached their zenith in the 1930s. The chief subsequent development was the introduction of excellent seed strains which now dominate the popular market.

Daffodils, which as garden varieties scarcely existed a hundred years ago, were also fully developed by mid-century. There have been breaks and developments since then but compared with the early years they are of minor importance.

Further breeding of ornamental flowering plants is not, of course, useless. Old varieties deteriorate and, like Alice, one must often keep running to

stay where one is. There are also smaller but important developments to be made, often to meet particular commercial requirements.

Last week I visited Floranova in Norfolk, one of the few British companies engaged in the breeding and wholesale distribution of flower seeds. Floranova's customers are the commercial pot plant producers, the bedding plant nurseries and the public parks departments. All have different needs. The pot plant growers require plants that are very compact and so easy to pack for transit to market; flowers must come early and stand up well above the foliage. Bedding plants are fully displayed. The bedding plant suppliers also want compact plants that do not take up too much room in their greenhouses, but the parks' superintendents like plants that spread so that they do not need so many to fill their display beds.

Breeding varieties to meet such tight specifications as these can be very demanding but also highly rewarding for those who succeed. To the outsider the difference between the successes and the failures may not seem great but to the breeder it can spell the difference between fortune and bankruptcy.

Yet even in this highly specialised work, where all the senior staff seem to have science degrees, it is acute observation rather than wizardry that seems to produce results. Quality control is immensely important since a few microscopic grains of pollen reaching the wrong flowers could ruin the purity of the mother stock and be multiplied disastrously in bulk production.

But maybe wizardry is about to creep in. For years we have been told that genetic engineering is ready to make a breakthrough into practical plant breeding. That day has not yet arrived.

But when it does it may be possible for scientists to transplant genes with as much assurance as surgeons now transplant hearts, kidneys and livers.

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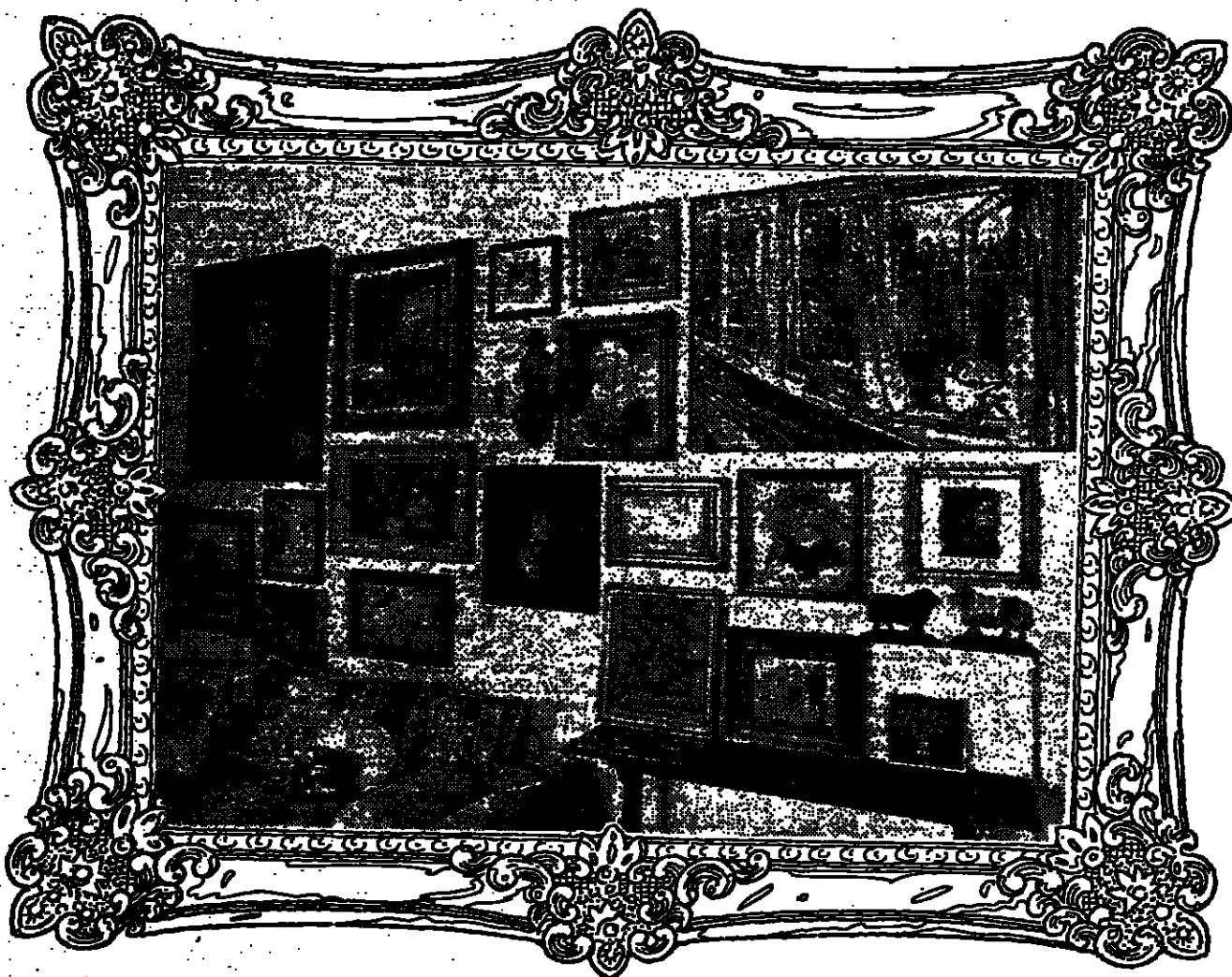
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DIVERSIONS

Choosing a surround for a painting is all-important. But where to go? Try these for size...

Lucia van der Post

The frame game



Clothes may not maketh the man but frames can make or break a picture. Here, frames, simple and ornate, show just what they can do for a picture—and what pictures, in turn, can do for a wall

craftsman, working alone, who decides on the moulding, the inset, the colours and the colour effects that will most enhance the picture.

He tends to use a combination of colouring techniques and water gilding with a gold finish which is very labour-intensive. There are many different treatments so that each frame seems almost an individual work of art. He is, so to speak, the bespoke end of the framing world.

Those who use him say he seems to have an almost perfect eye for colour and for the right size of moulding—he really does, say his customers, know best. So, trust him and don't mind the three to four weeks he takes—it will be worth it in the end. He works for galleries, decorators, artists and the man in the street. Framing starts at £50 and can go on up to as much as £500.

Stewart Miller, 3 Wilkinsons Street, London SW5 (Tel. 01-582 0556).

Another craftsman working on his own uses a combination of marbling, staining, distressing and other textures to provide a suitably rich and interesting frame for each picture. He likes to design and paint the frames himself (although he has a top glider, David Hagl, who does the resining work), and he will deal with pictures ranging in size from miniatures to near-murals. He will, if necessary, work on site.

He is a useful name to remember for any regular work—he is skilled at mending highly decorative frames and also has an expert on paper restoration in his team who can deal with damaged, torn or damp prints. His prices seem extremely reasonable and he will collect and deliver anywhere in the Home Counties.

The Railings Gallery, 5 New Cavendish Street, London W1P.

A good gallery for those interested in fine contemporary work. Eric and Gelbie Sander, who run it, are charming and take a great deal of trouble over every customer. They see an increasing trend towards double and triple mounts and the use of several colours. They are happy to go to the home (in the London area) to advise on what frame would look well in a given environment.

They have a good team of restorers on call and mending a frame is often much easier than it looks. They also have specialists working for them who will repair and restore damaged paper—it is quite amazing what can be done with modern techniques. Recently, a Picasso cut by a razor was mended—the fibres were swelled up with water and then interwoven together.

Today, even water-colours can be washed without the colours being damaged, while very stained and marked papers can be restored to look like new. The Sanders recommend and supply conservation board for framing valuable works—this is an acid-free board (much used by museums) which never changes colour and never marks the paper.

Stewart Headon, 98 Waterford Road, London SW6 (Tel. 01-735 3501).

Fans of his work say that once you have had a picture framed by him, you will never go to anyone else. He is a real

great care over adapting an 18th-century frame to fit a treasured oil. He has just bought a job lot of 18th and 19th century frames ("all gesso, carved wood and gilt") and although most of them are being used as mirror frames some can be adapted for pictures.

He nearly always has some old frames in stock and if you want to use one, its best to choose a large one and use a few mounts to fill the gap. He also does a lot of framing of modern prints and pictures; his prices are so good that it becomes a feasible proposition to frame something as inexpensive as a postcard: for instance, a picture 8 in by 10 in would cost about £2.50 if simply framed; with a mount it will cost a little more.

Frame Express of 82 Charing Cross Road, London WC2, and seven other branches (in Old Brompton Road, Kensington High Street, King's Road, Sutton, Wimbledon, Baker Street

and Fulham Road).

The place to go for professional framing within a day. It will do anything from a poster to traditional framing with multiple mounts and inclines, using gilt or moulded frames. All their frames are made up on site in each branch and most of the staff are art graduates fully trained in the art of framing and equipped to give good advice. Frame Express also offers conservation mounting—though obviously more expensive, this is well worth while for valuable prints or pictures; the acid-free mounting prevents any deterioration in the original. If you have a picture that needs cleaning or restoring they have experts who will take it on.

together your chosen frame. This offers two main advantages: it's cheaper—a print 20 in by 30 in framed in a 0.5 in black frame would cost £18.95, including dry mounting and VAT; if Fix-a-Frame did the whole job for you it would cost £27.95. And it's quicker—an hour and a half instead of two to three weeks if they do it for you.

Although the system offers an introduction to framing, you don't get to learn the really difficult skills: the cutting of the frame, the glass and the mount is all done for you. You do get to clean the glass, attach the picture to the mount, put the hangers onto the hardboard, staple the picture and hardboard together, put on the backing paper and then assemble the whole caboodle. You are supervised throughout and if you make some crashing mistake you won't be charged.

Most of the frames and mounts are fairly simple; the idea is more suitable for modern works and inexpensive

Fix-a-Frame, 280 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 (open Tuesdays to Fridays from 11.30 to 8 and Saturdays from 10 to 6); and 47 Fairlie Road, London NW6 (open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10.30 to 6.30 and on Thursdays from 10.30 to 7, but DIY only on Thursdays and Saturdays).

Fix-a-Frame offers the customer a chance to get to grips with the craft of framing themselves, in other words you can come in armed with your print or poster (I wouldn't recommend this system or service for valuable works of art) and put



Birthe Alton with a frame ready for her gesso work

Birthe Alton, The Alton Gallery, 72 Church Road, London SW13 (tel. 01-748 0606).

Birthe Alton runs one of the most charming small galleries I know. She specialises in modern British art (oils, drawings, water-colours or gouache) from about 1850 to the present day. However, when she isn't out on a buying trip or running the gallery she is busy hand-painting the most remarkable frames.

She started doing this because she could not bear to see so many lovely pictures ruined or rendered insignificant by bad framing. She taught herself, slowly and painfully, the very skilled art of gesso work and today is one of the few people to offer it to the public.

Gesso, for those who aren't au fait with the term, is one of the oldest substances in the world—a combination of rabbit skin glue and whiting. Most Florentine artists of the 14th and 15th centuries did their tempera paintings on a gesso background; all frescoes were done on gesso.

It is a labour-intensive technique involving the careful application of several layers of the substance until the required thickness is achieved. Each layer is applied hot, then has to cool and be rubbed down before the next is applied. It provides a marvellous foundation to paint, giving a luminosity that no other background seems able to offer.

When the gesso coatings have been laid down Birthe Alton hand-paints the frame, choosing colours that work with and complement the picture's style and colouring. Once again, many layers are involved—often colours are picked up from the picture and usually gold is added—before she rubs them down until they amalgamate and blend.

Finally, she polishes the whole with an agate (nothing but an agate will do) which gives it a marvellous translucent sheen. The results are rich, subtle and infinitely varied.

Given the labour involved, Birthe Alton's prices strike me as exceedingly reasonable—the lowest price for a small frame is £35 and the top price is around £150.

Birthe Alton recommends the gesso technique not just for oils but also for watercolours and drawings which, she thinks, are often rendered almost inconspicuous by traditional framing. "There is no reason," she says, "why water-colour or drawing should not be presented as strikingly as an oil-painting."

Having seen many of her frames, I can vouch for the fact that she has exceptional taste and a remarkable ability to provide a rich focus for the picture that enhances without overwhelming. Anybody buying a picture from her gallery has access to the Birthe Alton skills, but she also will undertake any other framing—about three weeks is the usual waiting time.

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Edmund Penning-Rowell assesses a nation hit by scandal

Austria after the freeze

WINE SCANDALS make good copy and none more than the Austrian diethylene-glycol one that hit the world's headlines in April 1985. As this chemical is an ingredient of "anti-freeze" the matter was brought home to every wine-drinking car owner: although in fact diethylene-glycol is far too expensive a product to put into a radiator and is more usually employed in the plastic packaging industry. Its addition to wine was so unknown that when in December 1984 the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture received a bottle with an anonymous note stating "this wine contains diethylene-glycol" there were no techniques sufficiently refined for analysing the chemical. Three months passed before German chemists came up with the answer.

The scandal seemed to blow up out of all proportion. Contaminated wine and only in small parts of Burgenland, which anyhow accounts for about a third of the total Austrian vineyard area. Some people were alleged to have been made ill by infected wine, but this was never proved. In comparison with the methanol scandal in Italy, when nearly 30 people died and over 100 were permanently disabled, no one died. For more widespread frauds in Germany have been treated much more lightly, although its trade, particularly for exports, has suffered.

In Austria, however, the outcome of the diethylene-glycol scare has been disastrous. Austria is an historic wine-producing country, but not a large one: it is 10th on the European list, with an average output of 3.2m hl—much less than Greece or its former partner, Hungary. Until the 1970s very little was exported, and what was went mostly to Germany—where some wine brokers and merchants certainly were involved in the scandal.

But in the 1980s the Austrians made the same mistake as the sherry producers in Spain and the brandy distillers

in Cognac. They planted masses of new vineyards in the expectation of greatly increased export demand. A total of 45,000 hectares in the mid-1980s had become 59,000 hectares by the end of the 1970s, most of it in Burgenland where the area under vines rose from 12,000 hectares to 20,000 hectares.

No wine-growing country can expect its domestic consumption to increase along with a higher planted acreage. In any case the Austrian taste is very much for dry, quaffing wine, most of which is drunk within a year of production, very often in the heuriger (heuer—this year) bars and restaurants. Twenty years ago 90 per cent of Austrian wines were sold in 2-litre bottles, about 70 per cent of them still are.

So Austria's increased production led to the need for greatly increased exports. Germany, the key importer, was particularly interested in the sweet wines of Burgenland, for which there was little domestic demand. In Burgenland, humidity created by the very shallow and extensive Neusiedlersee results in a greater output of wine affected by botrytis (noble rot)—which is appreciated in Germany. But the increased production of 5m hl in 1982 (against the average of 3.2m hl) caused prices to fall steeply—the average price of Austrian wine fell from 36 schillings (£1.82 a litre) to 12 schillings (44p). Indeed in Burgenland I was told that some bottles were down to 3 schillings (11p).

To sell their wine surplus some Burgenland growers probably not for the first time, resorted to diethylene-glycol to make their wines sweeter and denser.

The official reaction was swift, even a little hysterical, with 15 to 20 people, most of them merchants who had probably instigated the fraudulent addition, going to prison for up to 10 years. Yet this could not stop an immediate effect throughout

the world, which led to all Austrian wines being removed from the shelves. For a time, within Austria, merchants' wines were widely boycotted, to the benefit of those growers and co-operatives who sold direct. But that did not prevent the per capita consumption falling from a peak of 37 litres in 1981-82 to 32.8 in 1985-86.

Worse was to befall the exporters. Austrian wine exports were chopped from 478,000 hl in 1984 to 269,000 hl in 1985 and 42,000 hl last year. And the excellent house of Lenz-Moser, situated near the Wachau in Lower Austria, went bankrupt.

The panicky government rushed through a new wine law that was first published on June 29, 1985, appeared in parliament on August 29 and became law on November 1. It was so strict that it appeared to make every wine grower—and there are 42,000 in Austria, of whom more than 8,000 are professionals—a potential criminal. The bureaucracy established such a grip on export permits—which were both time-consuming and immoderately expensive—that it was surprising that merchants or growers had the stamina to stand the strain and delays. My previous wine visit to Austria was as long ago as 1980. Then I had found many

distinctive wines of quality. Yet since the news of the diethylene-glycol scandal broke in 1985 the wine industry, to my mind, has had a raw deal. So recently I again made a tour of the leading wine districts, and saw three days in Burgenland.

Austria's wine industry has not been helped by two very small vintages in 1985 and 1986, though excellent wines were produced then. Excessively hard frosts (down to -32 deg F) last winter may mean a tiny one this year, too. A large vintage is not needed, as this might lead to renewed price-cutting. But at least double the 1,126 Mhl obtained in 1985 would be welcomed, to re-establish the country's good name for wine.

Austria is mainly a white-wine-producing country, and most wine is really dry; no more than 4 grammes of sugar for the trocken. As the schilling is closely linked with the deutchmark, the wines cannot be markedly cheap here, but they have a quality, style and charm of their own which should restore their reputation and earn them a place on the sophisticated tables of the wine world, including our own.

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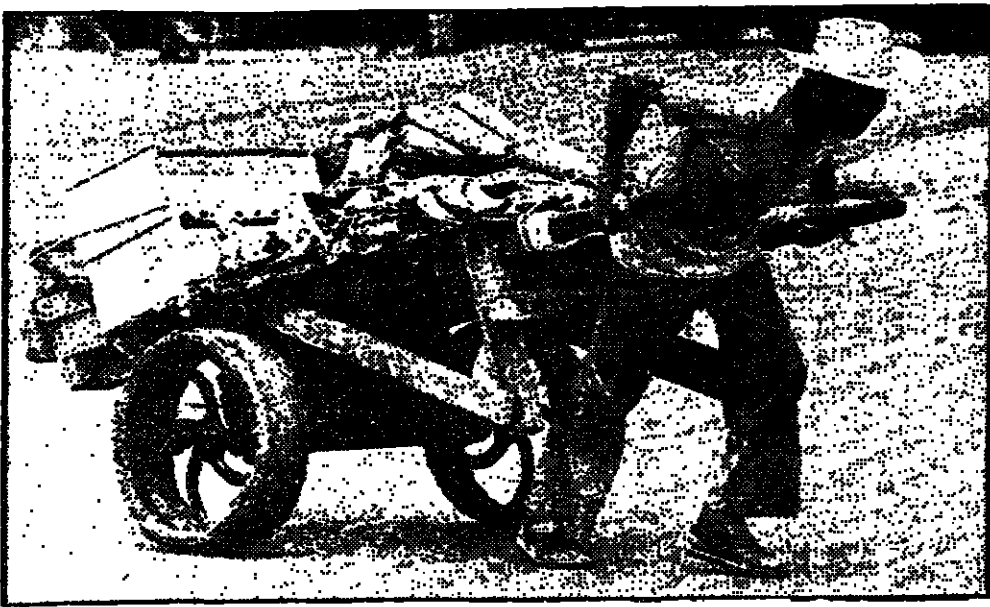
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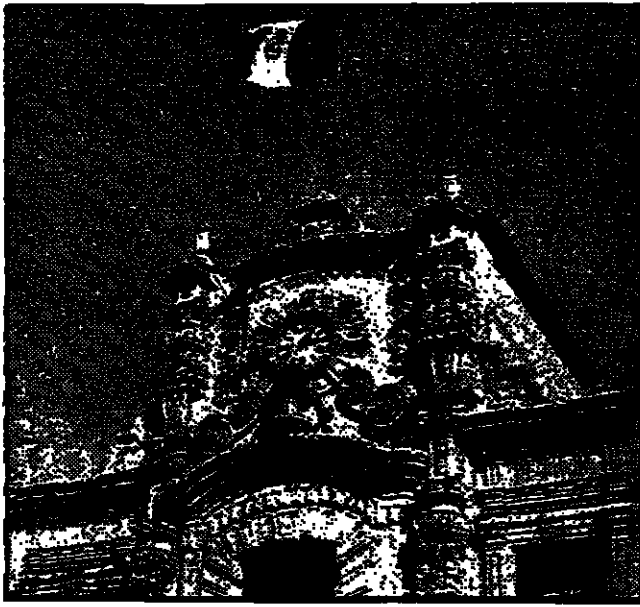
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BOOKS



Mexican peasant and seat of government: both are committed to survival



MEXICO: INSIDE THE VOLCANO
by Alan Riding, I. B. Tauris.
£19.50, 416 pages

IS THE story of modern Mexico, a country trying to raise itself above the level of Third World development or, more accurately, involved in a struggle to retain its nationhood and sense of identity against the encroachments of its powerful northern neighbour, the US?

Mexico is in a unique situation, possessing one border with the most powerful industrialised country (who in the 19th century acquired by humiliating treaty half the nation's territory) while in the South it borders on impoverished Guatemala, effectively the Fourth World. One is tempted to conclude, reading Alan Riding's highly informative analysis, that Mexico is more concerned to be treated as an equal by the US and hold together such a vast and diverse nation.

Mexico's identity is extraordinarily complex, evolved from ever-present pre-Colombian roots and the Spanish conquest that has produced the most "mestizo" nation in Latin America—over 90 per cent are of mixed race. Just one symptom of the agonised

Mexican psyche is the way official history almost bypasses the lengthy period of Spanish rule and creates a direct link with the pre-Colombian era and Mexican independence, then makes the jump to the 1911 Revolution.

But it is not just these elements which make Mexico so different from its neighbours. Mexico has developed the most durable political system in Latin America in the form of an institutionalised ruling party, the PRI, and not since 1920 has there been a military coup.

Despite the interest and international importance of Mexico, it has gone surprisingly unstudied. The impetus of such interest should logically come from the US; but as Riding points out the two countries exist in a state of mutual comprehension. Also Mexican nationalism, which led to the first ever oil nationalisation in 1938, banished the era when the writ of foreign concern like Weetman Pearson's Eagle Petroleum ran large and

Time of trials

Robert Graham on Mexico's role in the world

encouraged Mexico to turn in on itself.

Having been a correspondent first for the Financial Times and then for the New York Times over more than a decade, Riding knows his subject better than anyone and he has provided an elegantly written and invaluable textbook for understanding Mexico. The portrait is not always flattering but it is affectionately honest and balanced.

The best part of the book is his analysis of the complex Mexican power-structure. The pyramidical system with, at its apex, a President who rules for six years, has survived in part because the PRI has developed a formidable institutional presence at all levels in society,

successfully establishing itself as the font of all patronage, co-opting supporters and dissenters with what Riding terms the "cement" of corruption.

Unlike other Latin American countries, modern Mexico has not been destabilised by the Church and the Army—two institutions which elsewhere have been alternate centres of power. In Mexico, the Church was established in the 19th century; while the post-revolutionary armed forces never developed an aristocratic officer class, instead were content to play a back-seat role on the basis of substantial material rewards.

Finally, organised labour has chosen to work within the system, controlled for more than four decades by the same man, "Don" Fidel Velázquez, now 87 years old and still a king-maker. But in the end the real secret of the system's durability has been to ensure that all the various interest groups in society have only one commitment—the system's survival.

Since the collapse of oil prices against the background

of the previous López Portillo regime's prodigality, and the burden of a huge foreign debt, the system is creating. It seems to have lost its flexibility with the new US-aided technocratic elite insensitive to the old ways of patronage and manipulation. The de la Madrid leadership knows the political system has to adapt but seems unwilling to risk greater democratisation: the survival instinct encourages greater authoritarianism.

Riding charts the dangers ahead—an economic development model that has exacerbated the gap between rich and poor, population over 100m by the year 2000 AD with a quarter in the capital and federal district, an over-centralised government in a country with great regional differences and imbalances, a political class losing touch with the grass-roots. This crudely put is the smouldering volcano around which all sorts of alarmist scenarios can be built.

But there are balancing factors for which he gives insufficient credit. The country has adapted to the loss of oil-revenues and the burden of the debt crisis in a more orderly fashion than any other debtor and the Presidency still retains enormous authority, sufficient for a glomous Mexican style.

Douglas Jay discusses another attempt to unravel the Munich era

Dictatorial era

THE GHOSTS OF PEACE
by Richard Lamb - Michael Russell. £14.95, 353 pages

RICHARD LAMB has here written a detailed, often fascinating, diplomatic history of the Hitler years both before and after the outbreak of the 1939 war, and of the process of internationalisation of the Munich era. His story is reinforced by a formidable array of documents, including British official records now available, memoirs, letters, biographies and direct information from those still surviving.

He is, however, not just recording, but also forcefully arguing four main theses: first that Britain should have swayed the Hoare-Laval plan in 1935 so as to keep Mussolini in the Stresa anti-Hitler front; secondly that but for the appeasement efforts of Chamberlain and Halifax in 1938, Hitler could have been removed then and the war prevented; thirdly that the Morgenthau plan and "unconditional surrender" in 1944-45 were propaganda disasters; and finally that the war might have ended after the July 1944 plot to kill Hitler if the Allies had given enough support to the conspirators. Underlying these arguments is Mr Lamb's firm belief that a strong, organised anti-Nazi group existed in Germany through most of the period, and that the Foreign Office was grievously wrong to ignore them.

On Mussolini's Abyssinia war in 1935, I do not think Mr Lamb makes out his case, for two reasons. Certainly Baldwin and Eden, who had virtually approved the plan, let down Hoare shabbily in public by disowning it. But to have approved

it would have been politically impossible, and would have shattered the moral case for collective resistance to Hitler under the League of Nations. You can as well argue, though you equally cannot prove, that effective sanctions on Abyssinia would have more probably deterred Hitler. Secondly, the later experience of the war suggests a strong doubt whether Mussolini's army or navy would have made much difference to the military issue.

The story of Munich looks bleaker and blacker with every extra piece of information that emerges. The evidence marshalled by Mr Lamb convincingly supports his conclusion that if Britain, France and the Soviet Government (who he believes would have done so) had jointly threatened military resistance then, Hitler would have been discovered by the German Army. But Chamberlain and Halifax, Mr Lamb shows, pushed appeasement to extraordinary lengths in 1938 and thereafter.

In September 1938 the Cabinet was not even allowed to discuss Hitler's proposal for joint action by Britain, France and the Soviet. Chamberlain after Munich said that "Hitler would not deliberately deceive a man with whom he had been in negotiation." In the winter of 1938-39, so far from using time for rearming, he postponed increasing the defence programme till March 1939, and announced the "golden age of peace and prosperity."

Efforts to bargain with Hitler continued not merely after September 3 1939, but even in 1940. On May 24 1940, Halifax, still Foreign Secretary, was virtually co-opted by Chamberlain and Suez to Italy if

Mussolini would arrange terms with Hitler. On May 25, with the British Army in full retreat to Dunkirk, Halifax proposed in the War Cabinet of five that he should negotiate peace terms through Mussolini. Chamberlain supported him. Churchill as Prime Minister refused. Atlee and Greenwood supported Churchill. And so, by 3 votes to 2, the war went on.

Thirdly Mr Lamb makes a powerful and convincing case for believing that after the Battle of Normandy in 1944, Goebbels was enabled to exploit the absurd Morgenthau plan for "pastorising" Germany, together with indiscriminate bombing and "unconditional surrender," so to raise German public opinion to a level of resistance. It seems to have been a near propaganda miracle, and led Eisenhower to protest to the British Government that Allied propaganda was restoring the morale of the German Army.

But Mr Lamb's further belief that greater "help" from the British for the group would have ended the war in 1944 is weakened by two facts. First the failure of the 1944 plot was due, not to the lack of help from the Foreign Office, but to the failure of the bomb under the table to kill Hitler. Secondly any "help" in the form of discussing terms with any German group might have enraged Stalin and split the Alliance at a catastrophic moment. Mr Lamb's case here remains not proven. And the absence for 40 years after 1945 of any revival in Germany of the old militarism, based on a "stab-in-the-back" theory, lends further support to those who believe that the total defeat of the German Army in 1945 was basically the right policy.

Bordeaux brouhaha

LE SEMINAIRE DE BORDEAUX
by Jean Dutoit. Flammarion. FFY85, 318 pages.

SINCE HIS election to the Académie Française in 1978, Jean Dutoit has remained one of the liveliest spirits, snipping with tireless gusto against the fantasies and fatuities of contemporary society, especially on the French Left, in a series of novels, essays and regular newspaper articles. In his latest piquant, *Le Séminaire de Bordeaux*, he has concentrated his fire on one of the sacred cows of the Fifth Republic, the C.N.R.S., the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, and on a group of young sociologists who labour earnestly on monographs with titles like *The Sexual Life of Artisans in the Feather Trade at Grand Caillou in the 18th century*, or *Christianisation in the region of Poitou-Charente between 1936 and 1965*.

Promiscuity being the norm among this happy band of research workers, there is a fre-

quent exchanging of partners. Jean-Claude Simonot sleeps with Adeline Jolivet, but marries Brigitte Adeline Jolivet.

For an ardent admirer of Laurent Schwob, who ditches her for the cold and heartless Rita Cerf, and is in turn ditched by her, as a background chorus to these frolics, there are Laurent's parents, M and Mme Schwob, and a young girl, Genevieve, whose lives revolve around the General's memory, there is Marcel, the vernal proprietor of a Latin Quarter establishment called *Les Amis du Sûr*, and a trendy priest who lards his sermons with clichés about the class struggle.

This brief outline might suggest merely a farce with cardboard cut-out figures, but there is much more to it than that. For all their absurdities Jean Dutoit feels compassion for his characters and endows them with qualities they themselves hardly know they possess. As a novelist he is keenly aware of the mutability of human passions, and illuminates these shifts and changes of the heart with a clever interplay of aphorism and paradox, which places him firmly in a

specific French tradition that includes Benjamin Constant and Marivaux, Flaubert and Proust. He also has an acute ear for jargon and slang and the general mutilation of spoken French, of which Adeline Jolivet is a prominent exponent, since she peppers her speech with words like "cool" and "relax." Invents neologisms like "contagiosité" and "inféctivité," and talks of being "interpellée" quelque part when something has moved her. She could, in short, like her solitaire-husband companions, the other ex-students of May '68, be merely a figure of fun yet she ends as a figure of genuine pathos.

The *Séminaire* is a measure of Jean Dutoit's skill, which is equally in evidence when one of his other characters, Brigitte, undergoes a religious conversion and he manages to make it both natural and believable. It is a novel that is both so funny and so touching in such finely balanced proportions.

Erik de Mauny

Endgames and explanations

VLADIMIR'S CARROT: MODERN DRAMA AND THE MODERN IMAGINATION
by John Peter, André Deutsch. £17.50, 372 pages

VLADIMIR'S CARROT attempts to explicate modernity, what's new about our century's art? How is the contemporary imagination constituted? In answer John Peter, drama critic, implicitly subscribes to the paranoid cult of tragedy inaugurated by George Steiner. Bleak, amoral, obscure, self-consciously difficult, the drama, novels, poems and pictures embody a solipsism, a fundamentally cold aloofness, peculiar to a century of systematic genocide, world wars, political tyranny and wickedness. The ovens of Auschwitz, the tanks in Prague, the hand of Stalin, the mind of Hitler: with these facts the arts have had to cope; those facts the arts almost seemed to prophesy.

The heart of darkness is the modern mind. Peter traces a powerful pedigree for it. The "undernourished hopes" of the languishing nobility in Chekhov, for example, prefigure the monotony of the languishing tramps in Samuel Beckett (and in Matisse's pictures we may notice "the atmosphere of a Chekhov play"); the story pessimism in the use of words such as "ongoing" and "foregrounded" while others may view the way in which the book darts from one theme to another as irritatingly whimsical. Lovell's style of cultural commentary is sufficiently lively, thoughtful and accessible, however, to disarm completely a large number of potential critics and cavers.

Chloe Chard

real realities") he assiduously locates. Schopenhauer is, for Peter, a modern Aeschylus (as, for Steiner, Sophocles was an ancestor of Nietzsche), representing man's quest for morality in an indifferent universe. Kafka, for instance, "knew his Schopenhauer." Wagner flings his characters "into that Schopenhauerian world [of] the unknowable and the real." "And it does not seem fanciful to say that Cubist painting was one great Schopenhauerian act." Villiers de L'Isle Adam writes in his language worthy of Schopenhauer. By which is all meant, artists have recognised the crazy order of disorder; they anticipate the random rolls of the dice; they squiggle like dice tortured by wanton gods; they know the games of harmony are up; things fall apart.

Thus, Peter reads modern art as morose, in hopeless search of itself; ethics unbundled. In Wagner, "music acts... as a moral force," the morality traduced by the broils of action and plot; we're told where to locate "the core of moral weakness in the Ring." Landscape painting "has a moral aspect," and Picasso and Braque's work was "a moral activity." And so, for nearly 400 pages, on.

Peter's appreciation of modern art is consistent, sombre, sobering, serious—and I disagree with absolutely every word. Though not fond of reading creative works as illustrations of philosophic tracts, nor seduced by a conclusion which states that art intensifies "the experience of being alone," nor cheered by the confession "Vladimir's carrot... symbolises nothing," despite these reservations, my quarrel with the author is much more basic. I value comedy much higher than tragedy. I have never been

seduced by Steiner's pontifications and synoptic critiques. Comedy, as somebody said, is the blossom on the end of the nettle. Peter, like Steiner, refuses to let go of the nettle.

No book yet interprets modernity through laughter as though laughter is for some reason evasive and facetious. The gurn of comedy, when he emerges, might like to consider this: that James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* is the funniest book in the language—Joyce recognising, like Offenbach, that Homer was the comedian of cuckoldry; Ezra Pound's work is packed with side-of-the-mouth Wild West wisecracks; Beckett's work is a homage to Laurel and Hardy and the silent cinema.

Then there is Oscar Wilde, whom the late Richard Ellmann in a forthcoming biography makes into the existential hero. Aldous Huxley wrote convincingly against tragedy; Iris Murdoch's essay *The Sovereignty of Good* explains her own novels in terms of happiness. Kingsley Amis's observations are so cruel, so funny, so right. Anthony Burgess, like Chesterton, is an exponent of verbal horse play; he wrote the funniest, the warmest, heartiest post-war novel (with all that implies).

And, looking to the continent, Wagner's Ring is sublime end-of-the-world farce; Chekhov is pre-incarnation of Michael Frayn, Kafka of Alan Bennett. Picasso, quite simply, gave the modern world new eyes—joyous ones, despite Peter's attempt to render his vision crepuscular. Even Guernica is joyous, in that the destruction is surrounded by the fire and light of the sun.

Roger Lewis

Fiction

The party's over

THE DARKER PROOF
by Adam Mars-Jones and Edmund White. Faber, £3.95, 250 pp.

PARTINGS by Leonid Borodin, translated by David Floyd. Collins Harvill, £10.95, 233 pp.

THE RAPE OF THE ROSE
by Glyn Hughes. Chatto & Windus, £11.95, 372 pp.

FIRST LADY by Erin Pizze. Collins, £10.95, 496 pp.

NO FUN being the official "buddy" to a succession of AIDS victims. Someone to hug, a shoulder to cry on—though not literally, of course, because you can never be sure with these days or any body for that matter. In two of the six short stories of *The Darker Proof*, a cut finger becomes not just a minor domestic accident, but an instant shortcut to death. Particularly the victim happens to be your butcher.

Four of the stories are by Adam Mars-Jones, who has worked as an AIDS buddy and is clearly drawing on his own experience to paint a very moving picture of life at the end of the line: emaciated young men writing cheques all in figures to conserve energy, eating skinless sausages for the same reason, puffing out their cheeks for a photograph home so that their family will think nothing is wrong. Young men ostentatiously touching each other to show that they are not afraid; visiting their friends in hospital through a wall of jeering children who have identified them for what they are; keeping their own distance from the doctor because if they've got it they don't want

to know. Young men not brushing their teeth before an intimate kiss, because their gums might bleed...

It's a sad picture, nicely complemented by Edmund White's stories, both of which deal with Americans cruising in Europe in the hope that this side of the water might somehow still continue. The party does indeed go on, but the slim blond German comes to bed in shorts and dashes off immediately after sex to disinfect himself all over. *Vir kommen nie wieder*... This is a good collection, by and large, and a considerable eye-opener to anyone not familiar with the gay scene. Edmund White, in particular, leaves little to the imagination as to what actually goes on in public lavatories. There is a sameness about the stories as a whole which is probably inevitable in view of the subject matter, but they will evoke sympathy and understanding in all but the most hardened reader.

Leonid Borodin's *Partings* is by an unofficial Russian writer and was smuggled to the West five years ago, shortly before his arrest on an unrelated charge of spreading anti-Soviet propaganda. Quite why it had to be smuggled is something of a mystery, because it does not come across as excessively anti-Soviet, parti-



Erin Pizze

cularly not in the age of glasnost. Critical, yes, but no more. There's a suspicion here that the publisher is drumming up trade for a novel which, though perfectly acceptable, is no masterpiece.

Gennadi, the main character, is one of nature's enigmas (though, like the author, not a

dissident). He is a museum researcher torn between the village priest's daughter he seduced in Siberia and the smart Muscovite he has long been expected to marry. To raise some ready cash, he ghosts the memoirs of a war hero, who is appalled to discover that Gennadi will earn more for the book than the hero ever did in the service of his country. Various of Gennadi's friends fit in and out, disreputable characters mostly, cynically manipulating the system to their own advantage. It's good knockout stuff, but more about human beings in general than the Soviet regime in particular.

The Rape of the Rose, by Glyn Hughes, is the second of a planned trilogy of the horrors of the Yorkshire mills at the time of King Ludd and the Napoleonic wars. Mor Greave, schoolmaster-cum-weaver, is with the Luddites, heavily involved in attacks on property, forced to flee for his life across a countryside manned by three times as many troops as the Duke of Wellington employs in the Peninsula. The rape means what is being carried out by the millowners—

literally, in the case of one unemployed fellow with a taste for working class children. Arthur Scargill will love every word of this book. It is meticulously researched and full of period detail. But though its heart is in the right place, it is also dark, humourless and plodding, more of a polemical tract than an entertainment.

Somebody ought to break it to Erin Pizze, whose new novel *First Lady* touches lightly on the subject of big game hunting, but there are no tigers in Africa. Different continent entirely. Nor, unless the splendours of the African bush are more intoxicating than usual, will you ever come across a big black puss at Trevelyan, particularly since the place hadn't been invented at the time of which La Pizze writes so lushly.

Nit-picking aside though, the book is a mild improvement on her previous work. The sex is less offensive—though there are plenty of lesbians with diamonds studded in peculiar places—and the plotting more coherent. First lady of the title is the female governor of New Mexico, who has reached her present eminence only four generations away from the Russian ghetto. One day somebody will write an American family saga in which the immigrants find it easier to put the word go, do not have to struggle at all, but end up poor anyway. Meanwhile, *First Lady* is no worse than other novels of its kind.

Nicholas Best

Far shores of realism

CONSUMING FICTION
by Terry Lovell. Verso £22.95 (£7.95, paperback) 188 pages

CONSUMING FICTION might be described, very loosely, as an historical study of the novel in England. Terry Lovell is, however, more concerned with raising interesting questions than with providing a systematic analysis of her subject-matter, or charting a continuous pattern of development.

Her accounts of a number of different periods in English cultural history are connected not so much by any consistency of approach but, rather, by the intermittent resurgence of a few central aims and preoccupations. One of these aims is that of re-examining traditional Marxist interpretations of the novel, in an attempt to place "the question of sex and gender" at the centre of analysis alongside that of class.

Lovell begins by criticising Ian Watt's definition of the novel as an essentially "realist" form. While accepting Watt's view that one of the main determinants of the early novel was "the sensibility of the new class of capitalism, the bourgeoisie," he argues that the tastes of the eighteenth-century middle classes were gratified not only by realist fiction but also by more "fantastic" genres such as the Gothic romance. (The division between realism and fantasy is linked, in this book, to the contradiction between the spirit of sober "bourgeois respectability" fostered by the demands of capitalist production and the spirit of excessiveness encouraged by the

mechanisms of capital consumption.) Gothic romances were, of course, mainly written by women, and are usually regarded as works directed primarily towards a female readership.

Various attempts have been made, in recent years, to counter the virtual exclusion of these novels from "serious" literary history by constructing an alternative pantheon of non-realist fiction, based on the claim that the literature of terror and fantasy displays an exciting potential for subversion. Consuming Fiction provides an admirably level-headed account of the difficulties involved in establishing such a claim.

As Lovell moves on to the nineteenth century, she considers, among other questions, the positions which it was possible for women's fiction to adopt in relation to the "male régime." Provocatively, she focuses on the writings of Elizabeth Gaskell, the female novelist who "seems... to have appeared most comfortable within the confined space of a conventional middle-class femininity."

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• ARTS •

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denly a hand appeared to help her from the arch of the cloister and then the full form of her sister, Martine Chevalier played her with precision alternating flashes of fear and joy. Both this character and that of Hornby with his

★

Theatrical events in Avignon, which include a huge Fringe known as "Le-Off" have been closely integrated this year with the main festival. The atmosphere of this charming Provencal town, linked historically with the papacy, has some magnificent ancient buildings such as the Palais des Papes where the opening and recitals were held. Held here, for instance, was *Oedipus at Colonus*, Chekhov's *Platonov* and a riveting one-man show, *Discours de l'Assommoir*, by the actor André Marcon from a text by Valère Novarina. He is a French playwright of the post-Pinter generation with the same interest in the language and eccentricity of outlook. His monologue, for a person who identifies with animals in his view of the world, was so impassioned and original that it was rivaled by Marcon.



Japanese heikebiwa player Masatomi Doisaki and a group of musicians from Tibet

Captivated by ancient culture

Andrew Clements reports

and provocative collection of national concerts in recent years. Audiences appear to have grown in a glad and enthusiasm as the music has been accepted because "Music of the Royal Courts" has ranged so widely, and carefully avoided those areas of non-Western music usually heard in British concert halls. It has avoided the kind of special pleading, another series, as soon as possible, is essential.

That follow-up could profitably explore the regions left out of the first time. For this time, very much more voyages—12 days around the Old World; nothing from the Americas or the Pacific was missing. The emphasis was on the Asian, perhaps was inevitable in the old kingdoms of the Far East, from Burma and Sri Lanka to Laos and Thailand and up to Tibet, Chinese Central Asia and Japan. Several centuries of royal patronage and the development of a great, highly sophisticated court music and immensely skilled musicians.

In the Third World of the last 2000 years, it is precisely such cultural elites that are vanishing fastest; for political and economic reasons predominantly, court music has become an endangered species. It is preserved orally; that is at once their strength as they gain richness and resonance with the passage of generations, and their fatal weakness as they are being worn down and eventually destroyed forever. There is around this music an intense feeling of the pressure for survival: a more compelling reason for a festival than an effort to preserve the survival of entire musical cultures is hard to imagine.

To someone who only dips a toe into the vast waters of ethnomusicology with the greatest trepidation, the comparisons between their cultures and their similarities across

thousands of miles and the collective mythology which has thus seemed to grow and elaborate, has been perhaps the most intriguing of all the facets of "Music of the Royal Courts." How the tradition of epic singing, something which has vanished altogether from our Western European culture, remains an intrinsic feature of the art in countries as widely separated as Mali and Tibet; how the old silk route from the Middle East to China clearly traded in more than just goods and how the music of the Chinese Xinjiang province, preserved from the 18th century bears the unmistakable stamp of the Middle East; the art of the Andalusian court, dispelled altogether from Iberia, has been nurtured in oroco

And coupled with the exotic colours, the glimpses of societies which if they have not been created, have been effectively swept off from the

lished in their cultures for centuries, a seamless scheme of dance, song and instrumental music of striking flexibility and directness, delivered with an exuberance that was totally captivating.

Levels of virtuosity were such that eventually one began to take exceptional instrumental feats for granted. One, for example, a stringed musicians from the Thai royal court included a xylophone player of quite astonishing brilliance and personality, presenting music whose essence seemed to be rhythmic energy, a glittering mass of precisely focused lines intricately cross-cut and interlaced. Many musicians danced as well as sang or played instruments, and the music was an exercise in dislodging the complacency of our own Western musical culture with its implied superiority to all others. "Music of the Royal Courts" would be hard to betray.

Records

The dust blown from Beethoven

NORRINGTON'S Beethoven disc (with the London Classical Players) of the Second and Eighth symphonies is a delight and a revelation. Layers of reverent dust, loads of unnecessary string tone fall away. As the conductor rightly claims, "the use of the old instruments restores 'the exhilaration and sheer disturbance' this music had when new. Clarity at fast but not gabbling speeds and a new relationship between wind and strings are immediately apparent. And the strings lose in steel thrust they gain in silvery shading and light-footedness. The Second (in merely

average performance the least compelling of the nine) comes up fresh as a daisy.

The Eighth has never needed special pleading, but the compound of brusqueness, mellowness, wit and barely comicality that has made it so popular have been heard to such advantage. In both symphonies the range of subtle colour is extraordinary—Beethoven, one realises, used colour even as a composer of development. Nor is the Ninth, with its kindred players make one listen to the music as a new experience.

More; please and soon.

Beethoven's mythological ballet *The Creatures of Prometheus*—with choreography by Salvatore Viganò, was produced with success at the Vienna Burgtheater in 1801. The overture is familiar, some of the music is wonderfully balletic, but the complete work, although the Valots and Ashton have both

staged it for our national ballet, but rarely have you seen this full of little, striking inventions, this is a pity. The finale includes the "Prometheus" theme used by Beethoven, for whom it clearly has symbolic significance, the Eroica symphony, including the Eroica symphony.

- No point, in the dances, is looking for synchromic development. In his book *Ballet music as introduction*, the composer says that he "Semi-imagined that 'Beethoven worked closely with Viganò and carried out his wishes in detail' as Chailovsky, in years to come, said with Petipa. Constant Lemaire, who was the first to produce the Valois version, remarked that to his surprise he found Beethoven's score much better suited to ballet than the dance music of Mozart. The conductor, Georges Yvonne, of the Orchestra of the Chamber Orchestra

play with praiseworthy unanimity, took the strains for music. All the same it is good to have the whole of this braiding music.

Sotti's *Entführung* for Decca has the Vienna Philharmonic sliding and stamping. So much the better. The opera has become a general favourite in spite of problems of performance. Mozart was consciously writing a German singspiel as part of his Emperor's campaign to revive opera. Since he has a bunch of exceptional singers handy he wrote expressly for them.

Mozart's later and greater operas (excluding *La clemenza di Tito*) have been a little less than convincing to emerge from second-rank performance. There is indeed humanity in *Die Entführung* but it surfaces later in the evening, by which time the audience has been through a bundle of hard to be certain

by the principals. No amount of producers' interpretation or directorial meddling will help. The mood is sentimental romance, or fairytale without the supernatural. Osmin is a paper tiger bedecked with brilliant music, Belmonte a more convincing villain, but none of splendid arias. Pasha Selim is the embodiment of clemency. Konstanze, appropriately, the personification of constancy.

Konstanze goes, and how! She is a woman of strong emotions and attitudes of separation, grief and brave defiance. There is a touch of period exaggeration — as it were, Mrs Siddons as the tragic heroine — but she is a musical marvel, but only when she is reunited with Belmonte does she become fully credible. Then what Sitwell describes as "the strange and pleasing coincidence that the words of her utterance" take over. Soli has

an outstanding Kosterka in Edita Gruberova. With her breadth of style and phrasing and her full tone, she is a true dramatic coloratura. Since she has apparently given up the role in the theatre this testimony is doubly valuable.

Gösta Winbergh sings Belshazzar without a sign of the customary strain. The voice has no great personality, but in a role ideally needing a Patzak or a Tauber, the Swedish tenor offers much to be thankful for. As Osmin the Turkish overseer Martti Talvela presides with assured grace and good clowning, but unfulfilling musicianship. The Pasha's lines are spoken with dignified restraint by the actor, Wil Quaddeig. Kathleen Battle's Blonde (in difficulty her music is not far behind her singing) is delicious. Fedrillo, too often under-cast with cup tenors who can no more manage "Frisch zum Kampfe" than fly to the moon is admirably done by Hans Zednik, excelling alike in the aria referred to, and in the quick turn of the knife in the miniature miracle of the serenade.

Ronald Crichton

Radio

Cool summer listening

LINGERING at the cool end of the Spectrum Radio One affair on Saturdays a six-part biography of the guitarist Eric Clapton, *Behind the Mask*. Some time is spent on the sounds that made him his, but he has his own speaking voice that interested me most, coherent and intelligent beyond the standard of most musicians, or musicians on this channel. His command of the guitar, his melodic, dramatic, and scholarly style, typical of his generation; his talent is clearly his own.

Less cool, but pleasant enough, is the amiable Hank Wangford's *Looking for a Lone- some Yodel* (Radio 2, Wednesday), presenting songs from sundry people who make that sound of their throats. I was drawn to it for its curious relevance to Radio 3's current series, *Music in the Royal Courts*, which is the same sort of thing taken more earnestly. This gives groups like the Noblet at the Court of Henry the Sultan of Kedah a rather more realistic picture than singing "My Darling, Jimmy Roger." You can appreciate the yodels at the court, but some of the royal courtiers sound less amenable and

should be criticised only by
Then for something glad-
some in the drama *Mrs. No-*
gler Never Been Kissed in the
Same Place Twice on Sunday
afternoon; that's a six-part
series. But there are American
hits on Radio 6 on Wednesday
afternoon and The Last Ten
Dance on Radio 4 on Sunday.

Anniversary Waits is set in
Dublin at the time of the refer-
endum on divorce. Marcus (T.
McKenna) and Maeve (Stella
Kriegelstein) are celebrating
their silver wedding it
turning is the word. Maeve
goes reading from a list of
poisons that she carries around
with her, and when Father
Benedictus quotes "Whom God
hath joined together," she shouts
"I will never be married."
ways to her liberal unmarried
friend Inella. Maeve is a com-
petent Catholic Irish patriot, with
"martyr" written all over her.
She means to weaken him with
doctrines from the chemist's where
she works until he is light
enough to finish off. But Mar-
cus is a man of the Church who
thinks that the Church will allow kill-
ing in self-defence, and if she
is after him, he can put her out

anyone but the Irish would have thought of it. Michael Judge is the author of "Jeremiah: Hero of the BBC Northern Ireland the director."

The Last Ten Dances, by Ronald Hayman (Radio 3), is hearted as its title suggests. It is about a Jewish boy from a strict orthodox family who loses his faith. He serves in the army, and is sent to the front in the Synagogue. He is not asked questions from the rabbi, or from his father. So deeply does his father feel, that when the boy refuses to pray with him, he is sent to the front. There is still another crisis to be faced—will he say Kaddish at his father's funeral? We are not told specifically if he does; but in a letter to his girl-friend, he writes: "Some shook hands with me and some only with my eyes closed."


This is a technically an interesting play, the narrative constantly interrupted by brief parentheses illustrating a current point; and there is more emotion in it than I have been used to in contemporary British drama. The play is directed by a famous Polish director, an enormous cast, 21

must be worried about sacrificing their reputations in its arid wastes. It killed off David Bowie; gave Genesis a run for their money; and now awaits Madonna in August. If anyone can make it human she can.

The Stadium almost makes the adjacent Arena seem cosy. The smell is less fetid; the litter less overwhelming; the concrete marginally less oppressive. It also gives the artists a chance.

But you can't love them all and I'm afraid I gag a bit on Billy Joel. I'd feel happier about his performance if I knew what the point of him was. He seems somehow suspended between those superstars who service middle America at Caesar's Palace, Vegas, and those other superstars who keep the students happy at campus stadia.

This identity crisis invaded his. At the moment he is lovingly bent over his upright — it's a grand, actually — caressing the keys as lovingly.



Billy Joel at Wembley Arena



ing it straight has appeal. For "Goodnight Saigon" there is the roar of a copter drowning out the best of the music, but it is Joel leading for the most, not the piano, and he is, or more effectively, centre stage and singing his curiously mannered compositions. They usually have a roaring riff that the audience can catch on to, and it comes as something of a shock to find you are singing along with this rather serious, uncool, little man.

The band is hardly there to challenge him, and although the keyboard player is irritatingly mobile as he bashes out a single note and the guitarist looks as if he has come from central casting, there is no doubting their pedestrian professionalism. It was a mite too crafted, and it took the encores of "Uptown Girl" and "Tell her about it," the big hits which force themselves unwillingly into the mind and body, to justify Billy Joel's reputation. The packed Arena loved him, swaying, and chorusing, and willing him along. Perhaps there is vulnerable charm in there somewhere but then I was sitting quite near the back.

Antony Thornicroft

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SPORT

Croquet/Nicky Smith

Sponsorship? Prizemoney? Nasty commercialism? Despite the fears of the fogies, croquet is being modernised

THE BRITISH Open Croquet Championship, taking place at Hurlingham this week (finals today) has been staged against a background of lively debate about the future of the game. Far from being a pastime of curates and crones, croquet is mostly played today by men under 40 whose growing interest in promoting the sport has caused ripples of anxiety among the old guard.

The official magazine of the Croquet Association bristles this month with articles and letters for and against the promotion of croquet to the status of being professional in a sport still completely amateur. Difficult questions such as the level of prizemoney (at present limited to £25) have the old fogies of the croquet world up in arms. They are horrified at some of the Croquet Association's plans for expanding and encouraging sponsorship which, they fear, can only lead to the "nasty commercialism" that television has brought to other sports.

The younger set, led by Steven Mulliner, a merchant banker and chairman of the CA's finance and general purposes committee, argues that "croquet is growing at a steady, controlled pace," and that the sport's safeguard is that the nature of the game determines the type of person who is attracted to it.

Those attracted to the Open this year (48 in the singles, 22 pairs in the doubles), include schoolboys, top British seeds and, God forbid, a woman, Jan Macleod, works as a textile technologist for Marks and Spencer. A former fencer, she enjoys the cool-headed skills of croquet.

She thinks that the remarkable absence of women at the top end of the game is simply because women in general play less sport than men, but she admits that the men are not always encouraging.

"They adopt a sort of elegant chauvinism," she says. "A lot of gentle abuse is given to women croquet players. One of them actually said to me once: 'Jee, you're not a woman, you're a croquet player'."

The male contingent includes



The new guard attacks

Nigel Aspinall, probably Britain's top player, a consistent winner at the Open and also of the prestigious President's Cup; David Openshaw, Great Britain's captain who led a team to victory against the US in Palm Beach earlier this year, and Robert Fulford, a 17-year-old from Colchester who intends to read maths at Durham University.

Fulford plays chess and snooker and epitomises the raw recruit—he was knocked out of the singles early this week because, he says, he "played like a wally."

Proper croquet is a highly skilled and tactical game. It involves setting up breaks (like snooker) and deep concentration and forethought (like chess). The shots are varied and precise, the hoops often smaller than regulation size. This year they used President's Cup hoops at the Open—1/4th of an inch wider than the ball.

The Croquet Association likes to promote the game as one that can be played on equal terms by all ages and both sexes. Jan Macleod disagrees. "On fast lawns, it's true that both sexes are even," she says, "but when the lawns are heavy after rain, it takes more stamina for an

8 st woman to put the ball across than it does for a 12 st man. It's a slight disadvantage, of course, but, at competition level, it counts."

This is the first year that Carlsberg has sponsored the Open at Hurlingham—another feather in the cap of Chris Hudson, the Croquet Association's development officer, and of the CA's secretary, Brian Macmillan.

Both would like to see more sponsorship, and in an effort to attract more interest from the public they launched a national garden croquet competition earlier this season. The hope was to encourage garden players to take the game more seriously and perhaps join one of the 140 or so official clubs throughout Britain.

Most newcomers to croquet are surprised to discover that it is, indeed, an international sport. Test matches are played every four years on a triangular basis between Britain, Australia and New Zealand, while the US is expected at Hurlingham next year and Japan, which also takes a lively interest in the game, in 1989. There are also plans for the foundation of a World Federation of Croquet.

Chris Hudson would dearly like to see the sport televised, though the game doesn't lend itself too readily to the small screen. It's difficult to pick up halfway through when nothing much may appear to be happening, and as croquet is very much a game of control it lacks the emotional flamboyance of a sport like tennis. However, croquet certainly has its share of characters.

Croquet's first Open Championship, according to the record books, took place in 1867. It was the beginning of croquet as a serious sport and was the brainchild of Walter Jones Whitmore, a first-rate eccentric.

Whitmore seems to have spent his life inventing things that never quite worked and writing appalling poetry, but he transformed croquet from an open-air pastime into an intellectual game.

In the process, he helped stage some spectacular events, culminating in a huge tournament at Aldershot in 1871 in which horse artillery and dragon guards took part, the event was the last to be held with huge Union Jacks, and play took place to the strains of Offenbach.

By comparison, the old fogies of today would seem to have little to fear from sponsorship or television.

I believe we are in for a surprise. It is my opinion that we are about to see the first real outsider to win at Muirfield since Alf Perry in 1935'

IT WAS always better in the old days! Having spent over a week since arriving in Scotland sitting through yards rather than feet of egotistical chatter supposedly drumming up reader interest in the 116th Open Championship, the memory banks were working overtime among the older fellows long before a shot was fired in earnest. (Ironically it was fired by an amateur unknown to me, Freddy George, who was first out on Thursday at 7.30 am in a first round that was completed roughly 13 hours later).

Having "invested" a modest five each way on Jack Nicklaus in a betting shop in nearby Musselburgh on Wednesday, purely and simply because I considered it an offer at 40-1, I had been regaling my elderly compadres with a story of my first meeting with Nicklaus at Muirfield in the Walker Cup match in May 1959.

Nicklaus was a distinctly pudgy 19-year-old at the time, and I heard him long before setting eyes on him in the comfortable clubhouse of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers.

That gratingly high-pitched voice—distinctly lowered by the passing of the years—was loudly bemoaning the fact that "they don't have a decent steak here, or any central heating." Goodness knows it was cold, misty and drizzle damped that week. But as one who had covered in an air raid shelter for several years of lost childhood during the second world war, I was offended by both sight and sound of this then cocky-cut youngster and his equally brawny foursome partner, Ward Wetherill.

The golf of this pair and their teammates was devastating, however, an drive was later the British and Irish were

licking their wounds after yet another humiliating defeat at the hands of the American cup holders.

The following week I was to watch Nicklaus fail to win the Amateur Championships at Royal St George's, Sandwich, one of the very few blemishes on his incomparable record. His Walker Cup teammate, Deane Beman, then a stubby crew-cut youngster, beat yet another American team member, big Bill Hyndman, in the 36-hole final.

Dry weather had scorched the great Kent links to a crisp and Beman, outdriven by up to 100 yards from practically every tee, gave maybe the greatest day-long putting exhibition ever witnessed in beating Hyndman by 3 and 2. I did not see Nicklaus play again as an amateur, but have since, like practically everyone else, come to revere him as a professional and a gentleman.

There was hardly time to draw breath before returning to Muirfield for the Open Championship a month later. In bygone days the qualifying rounds were played at the championship venue itself—not on a selection of largely unworthy nearby golf tracks. Those successful over 36 holes on Monday and Tuesday then played on Wednesday and Thursday before the cut was made, and the survivors went at it over the final 36 holes on Friday.

In those days the leaders were not sent out last, and it was mighty difficult to decide who had won until it was all over. But South Africa's Gary Player, then 23, knew he was in with a very good chance early in the afternoon, though it seemed to him as if he had thrown everything away at the 72nd hole when he finished with a most untidy double bogey six.

One of the most poignant photographs in my prized collection shows Player weeping inconsolably and leaning on his loyal wife Vrennie's shoulder at the recorder's tiny hut.

Player returned, apparently heartbroken, to his hotel room in North Berwick. There he was awakened three hours later by his sponsor, the late and



Getting down to the job: Titleholder Greg Norman takes a long, low look

much lamented South African sports benefactor, George Blumberg, who told Gary that the trophy was his if he cared to accept it.

Fred Bullock, a teaching professional from Prestwick who had led Player by seven shots—68 to 75—after the first round, had fallen apart to tie with the elegant Belgian Florio van Donck for second place, four strokes behind the little South African, who thereby won his first major title of a momentous career.

In 1986 at Muirfield, Nicklaus finally won the Open Champion-

ship in a virtual drought, cannily forgoing his driver for a one iron on fairways baked so hard that they were easily capable of sizzling shuffling.

Nicklaus's triumph represented a particularly tragic personal happening for my faithful correspondent. I had "trained" the Welshman Dave Thomas, runner-up to Peter Thomson in the 1958 Open at Royal Lytham, especially for the occasion.

All winter long I forced my neighbour and close friend un-

willingly to pound the pathways in Dunham Forest, Cheshire, as we reduced our respective heroic frames to more respectable proportions.

Alas, Thomas was to tie for second place again, this time with the colourful American Doug Sanders, and was promptly dismissed as a trainer, only to turn biographer.

In 1972 we returned to Muirfield to witness Lee Trevino's unlikely but successful defence of the title he had won at Royal Birkdale the previous July. By then I had become accustomed to following Tony Jacklin's triumphant progress around the world of golf on behalf of the readers of this newspaper, and it seemed that victory was Jacklin's for the taking when, on the 71st tee, Trevino was twice forced to back away from his drive by a photographer, who eventually succeeded in darting across the fairway.

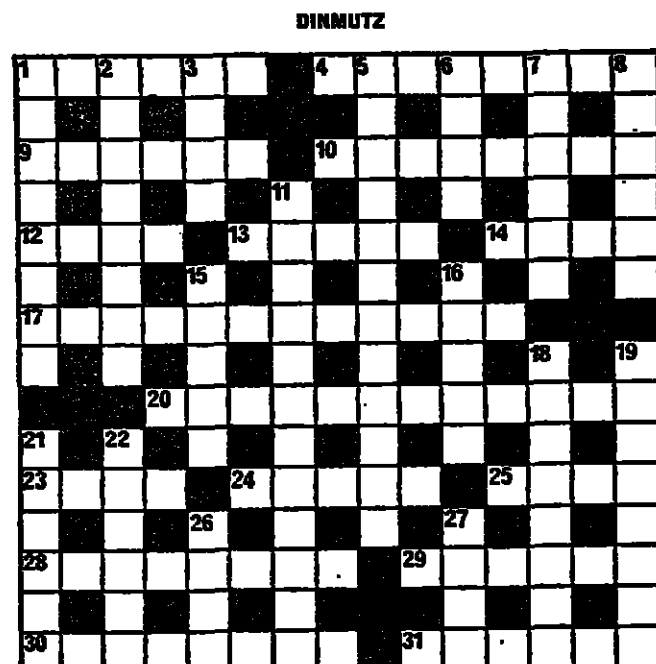
Trevino turned to me when his eventual tee shot hit a bunker and said: "That goddam photographer has cost me my title."

Lee bunted three shots casually down the right hand rough, muttering many Latin oaths along the way, and then, having previously holed two chip shots and a pitch from a bunker in previous rounds, casually chipped his ball straight into the hole from an impossible position.

It was clear to me, and Trevino readily agreed, later, that he had concentrated not at all on the shot in question. Jacklin, who knew this for a fact, was plainly unnerved, took three sorry putts, dropped another stroke unjustifiably at the last hole and, by his own admission, was never again to be reckoned with in major championships.

Tom Watson won the last Open to be played at Muirfield, in 1980, with considerable ease. How fitting it would be if he could equal Harry Vardon's record of six Open victories tomorrow evening. But I think that is an unlikely happening because I believe we are in for a surprise. It is my opinion that we are about to see the first real outsider to win at Muirfield since Alf Perry in 1935.

FT CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 6,381



Prizes of £10 each for the first five correct solutions opened. Solutions, to be received by next Thursday, marked crossword on the envelope, to The Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF. Solutions next Saturday.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tennis player, having changed end, was murdered in the service (6)
 - 2 Second gymnast to hit the blocks? (5)
 - 3 Memorised books on King of Britain (6)
 - 4 Whole triangle parts amended (8)
 - 5 Dandies in loud military exercises (6)
 - 6 As sick as a dog (5)
 - 7 Hollow warning of school-boys (4)
 - 8 He knows about scales coming from the gar or carp (12)
 - 9 Suffering pain, eat eel and lay up (12)
 - 10 Response from the chorus (4)
 - 11 Gave up like top Wimbledon players, we hear (5)
 - 12 Charges of a chemist reduced (4)
 - 13 Once a week (3)
 - 14 He got the highest rent from Casca (6)
 - 15 Slope, he created, dipping bread in drink (8)
 - 16 Inland home of lemons going off (6)

- DOWN**
- 1 Insolence displayed by printers? (4, 4)
 - 2 Opening Christmas baskets, will you find a bottle of this? (6)
 - 3 Bird hiding in other nests (4)
 - 4 One in court, upsetting parents in Ely (6-9)
 - 5 This manner sounds petty (4)
 - 6 Lasso disturbed a trail (6)
 - 7 Deliverance from outstanding art-form (6)
 - 8 Craft of Masefield in his office? (12)
 - 9 Dot, Mark or Bill (5)
 - 10 This girl felt unwell getting up (5)
 - 11 Standard means to chura cheese (5)
 - 12 Dances in American bars (8)

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 6,380

ACROSS: 1. TENNIS, 2. SECOND, 3. KING, 4. WHOLE, 5. DANDIES, 6. AS SICK, 7. HOLLOW, 8. HE KNOWS, 9. SUFFERING, 10. RESPONSE, 11. GAVE UP, 12. CHARGES, 13. ONCE, 14. HE GOT, 15. SLOPE, 16. INLAND.

DOWN: 1. INSOLENCE, 2. BASKETS, 3. BIRD, 4. ONE, 5. MANNER, 6. LASSO, 7. DELIVERANCE, 8. CRAFT, 9. DOT, 10. THIS, 11. STANDARD, 12. DANCES.

SOLUTION AND WINNERS OF PUZZLE No. 6,375

ACROSS: 1. TENNIS, 2. SECOND, 3. KING, 4. WHOLE, 5. DANDIES, 6. AS SICK, 7. HOLLOW, 8. HE KNOWS, 9. SUFFERING, 10. RESPONSE, 11. GAVE UP, 12. CHARGES, 13. ONCE, 14. HE GOT, 15. SLOPE, 16. INLAND.

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SOLUTION AND WINNERS OF PUZZLE No. 6,375

ACROSS: 1. TENNIS, 2. SECOND, 3. KING, 4. WHOLE, 5. DANDIES, 6. AS SICK, 7. HOLLOW, 8. HE KNOWS, 9. SUFFERING, 10. RESPONSE, 11. GAVE UP, 12. CHARGES, 13. ONCE, 14. HE GOT, 15. SLOPE, 16. INLAND.

DOWN: 1. INSOLENCE, 2. BASKETS, 3. BIRD, 4. ONE, 5. MANNER, 6. LASSO, 7. DELIVERANCE, 8. CRAFT, 9. DOT, 10. THIS, 11. STANDARD, 12. DANCES.

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SATURDAY

† indicates programme in black and white

BBC 1
6.45 am Open University, 8.30 The Family News, 8.35 Dogan and the Three Musketeers, 9.00 It's a Wonderful Life, 9.15 The World of David Frost, 9.25 Film: "Down Among the Z Men," starring Peter Sellers, 12.30 pm Grandstand, 1.30 pm News, 1.55 pm The Open, 6.45 News, 7.00 The Open, 7.00 Film: "Sam Whiskey," starring Burt Reynolds and Angie Dickinson, 8.30 Les Dennis's Laughing Show, 9.10 Bluebell, 10.00 News and Sport, 10.30 Miami Vice, 11.55 Film: "Inside Out."

BBC 2
6.50 am Open University, 2.30 pm No Limits, 4.00 This is the Day, 10.00 PC 48, 5.00 The Sky at Night, 5.25 Film: "Dick Barton—Special Agent," 6.35 pm Discovering Portuguese, 7.00 Newsweek, 7.40 Points in Space, 8.00 The World of David Frost, 8.15 News, 8.30 Film: "Follow the Fleet," starring Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Randolph Scott and Betty Hutton, 10.20 On Stage, 10.45 Golf, 11.25 Film: "Quatermass and the Pit."

LONDON
6.55 am TV-am, 9.25 Get Fresh, 11.30 The Royal, 12.00 News from ITN, 12.05 The World of David Frost, 1.00 The World of David Frost, 1.15 The World of David Frost, 1.30 The World of David Frost, 1.45 The World of David Frost, 1.55 The World of David Frost, 2.00 The World of David Frost, 2.15 The World of David Frost, 2.30 The World of David Frost, 2.45 The World of David Frost, 2.55 The World of David Frost, 3.00 The World of David Frost, 3.15 The World of David Frost, 3.30 The World of David Frost, 3.45 The World of David Frost, 3.55 The World of David Frost, 4.00 The World of David Frost, 4.15 The World of David Frost, 4.30 The World of David Frost, 4.45 The World of David Frost, 4.55 The World of David Frost, 5.00 The World of David Frost, 5.15 The World of David Frost, 5.30 The World of David Frost, 5.45 The World of David Frost, 5.55 The World of David Frost, 6.00 The World of David Frost, 6.15 The World of David Frost, 6.30 The World of David Frost, 6.45 The World of David Frost, 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